

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



OCTOBER 1939

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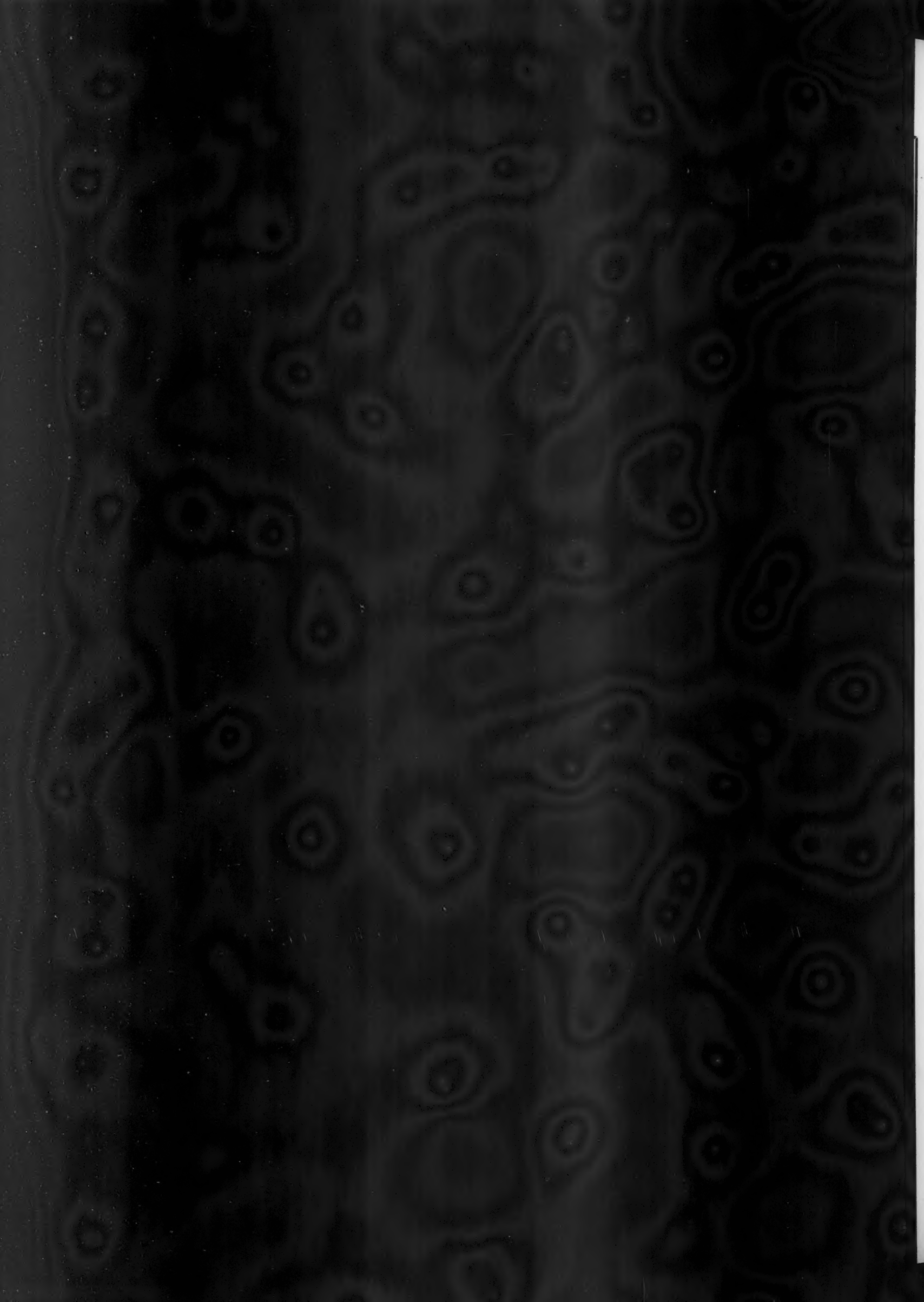
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Volume XXI

OCTOBER 1939

Number 5

OUR HERITAGE FROM THE VIKINGS OF THE RANGE

BY DAN D. CASEMENT

Manhattan, Kansas

IT IS NATURAL, DOUBTLESS, THAT man's earliest occupation when he emerged from savagery should exercise on his life, even to the present day, more persistently and powerfully than any other vocation to which he has since turned his hand, the wholesome influence of those sterling virtues, simplicity and self-dependence.

Economically, the essence of this industry primitively was and still is the conversion into wealth of vegetable matter valueless to man in its natural state. For this process another element is essential; namely, neat animals, the flesh of which is a staple of the human diet. Man's contribution to the resulting product is the direction and management of the herds and flocks through which the conversion is accomplished. Success in this vocation, today as in the beginning, calls for unique and admirable human qualities. Its economic importance to our country is second to that of no other calling. These circumstances combined to frame with the glamour of risk and romance the cattle business as followed in the West during the past eight decades of our history and to contribute to the West most of its economic importance and many of its distinctive social characteristics.

Wild West Tamed

The real conquest of the West began with the close of the war between the states. In the North, adventurous soldiers of the returning armies, weaned from their former domestic habits by years of camp life, eager for fresh excitement, and made aware by experience of the power that attends organization and discipline, were ready to challenge wild Indians for possession of their buffalo ranges by building a railroad across the Great Plains and over the Rockies to the Pacific. Hide hunters preceded and followed the rails to subjugate the Indian by quick extermination of the bison on which was based the whole economy of those hostile tribes inhabiting the vast empire beyond the Missouri.

The immediate financial returns from this wholesale destruction of potential wealth were unimportant: a meager tonnage of freight for the new rails in hides and bones; profits for the hunters too thin to compensate them in any wise for the toil and dangers of the chase. But the physical results of the slaughter were of the utmost importance; for, with the destruction of these animals, which were the chief source of their sustenance and the sole guarantee of their freedom, the warlike spirit and power of the plains Indians, resisting to the last, were completely tamed, and 1,000,000 square miles of arid land bearing sparse but nutritious forage which formerly had served merely to grow and fatten the bison were now available to the uses of civilization.

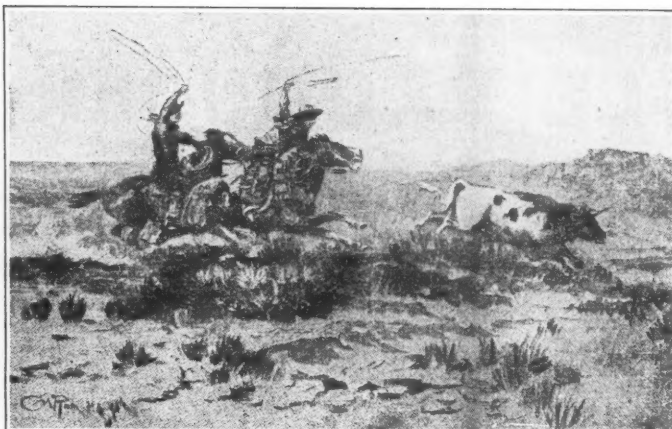
In the South, the Texans who had fought in the Confederate armies returned to their pioneer homes to discover that their longhorn cattle, in-

creased amazingly in their absence, had often reverted completely to a wild state and in many instances bore no brands by which their ownership could be identified. At once they set about the business of their recovery. This undertaking fostered a race of the most reckless riders that ever stepped up on a horse and developed an equine strain which surpassed in courage, agility, endurance, and fitness for their especial task any horse the world has ever known. "Brush splitting" on "cow hunts" by night as well as by day, repelling the forays of thieving Mexicans and the raids of crafty Comanches, the Texans of the post-war period met hardship and danger as mere incidents of normal life and thus profited greatly in character and the priceless qualities which distinguish true manhood.

Mainly their blood traced back to that of the earliest settlers of the southern colonies along the Atlantic seaboard, Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia. Over the Appalachian range and across the Mississippi to the Texas frontier they had carried with them the patrician traditions and the honest pride of their forebears. In their make-up was little of the Puritan strain. Rather they were stamped in the pattern of the Cavalier, the man on horseback, the caballero, the gentleman in the literal and highest import of that term. Their "simpleness



Dan Casement on his Steel Dust stallion, The Deuce, bred by Jack Casement, Whitewater, Colorado, by Balleymooney out of Caliope by Little Joe.



From painting by Charles M. Russell.

"Most reckless riders that ever stepped up on a horse."

and gentleness and honor" were the true source of the moral and civil code which later was to impart a peculiar quality to the social institutions of the entire West and to the customs and habits of its typical inhabitants.

No Easy Road

Cattle ranching in Texas at the end of the Civil War afforded no easy road to riches. Cows were a comparatively unattractive form of wealth because of the abundance of supply, the lack of demand, and the natural obstacles which intervened to hamper their exchange for money or for any more desirable form of property. Except as live exports of bull beef might occasionally be made to Cuba, no certain demand for bovine products in bulk existed, save such as was offered by a limited market for hides and tallow at a few crude slaughter-houses on the Gulf coast. That Texans persisted in the hazards of cow hunting in such discouraging circumstances speaks volumes for their pluck and tenacity of purpose.

It required imagination to vision the possibilities of a growing market in the North. It took courage inspired by desperation to trail cattle to that market guided only by the North Star through a wilderness inhabited mainly by Indians of uncertain temper. But daring Texans took the risk and measurably succeeded.

As the promise of free and more fertile lands drew a constantly swelling tide of immigration even further into the West, the tracks of the pioneer railroads attended closely or even preceded the settlers. When once the rails had crossed the Missouri and penetrated into the buffalo range of Kansas, the adventure of trailing Texas cattle to the railhead became a well-established business. No sooner had the northern and eastern markets, reached by the new rails, been amply supplied, than there arose an eager demand for cattle to stock the northern plains and the mountain country. The cattle business boomed in the West, and the Texas drover reaped a rich reward for all the hardships he had previously endured.

The western cattle business had its real heyday during the decade from 1875 to 1885. At the beginning of that decade, and even earlier, an immense market for southern stock cattle developed at the railhead in southwestern Kansas. All cattle arriving over the rail which were unsuitable to move by train for slaughter at the central markets further east were eagerly snapped

up by buyers who in many instances were making their first venture into a new industry in an unproved field. Seen in the light of its immediate promise, with no thought of the growth and expansion of both agriculture and industry which a near future was about to disclose, it is easy to understand why the cattle business in that era attracted in unequalled measure both adventurous men and venturesome money.

Nature Was Their Partner

It was an enticing vocation, a partnership in fact with bountiful, generous Nature herself. There was assurance of an unfailing market, because the product was essential to the maintenance of human life. Nature, in theory, would furnish the entire plant and attend joyfully to the process of manufacture. Man's only obligation in the enterprise was to provide the necessary implements and the manual and executive skill required for successful management of the business.

Cattle to occupy free range, to consume free grass and drink free water were in feverish demand. And for several years the Texans, holding almost a monopoly of the supply, profited accordingly.

How first the plains, extending clear to the Canadian border, and then the mountains were stocked and overstocked in the short years of that memorable decade is an old story. Old, too, is the story of how the great adventure met disaster in the end. The wreck, of course, was inevitable from the beginning; but, as usual, was seemingly quite beyond the capacity of human nature to foresee or prevent.

The cattle business, on the grand scale on which it was conducted during that decade, simply met the fate that befalls all "perfect" economic theories which either disregard or wrongly appraise natural laws.

But Nature Could Be Stern

The theory on which the early cattlemen based their operations took little account of the law which decrees that Nature can be supremely stern as well

as beautifully benign. And so came the terrible blizzards of 1885 and 1886 which literally wiped out the bulk of the plains cattle from Canada to the Canadian River.

No more did it take account of the law of competition and of the fundamental truth that the personal possession of valuable property, which theoretically belongs to all, will be constantly liable to irresponsible challenge, until society, through government, shall definitely award and protect a proper title to it.

An admirable and optimistic disregard of such considerations brought economic disaster to the cattle business of the West in its original model. In the half century which has elapsed since those early days, the industry has suffered every economic and political affliction which has unavoidably attended the settlement of the public domain, the creation of the national forests, and the reluctant assumption by the federal government of its obligation to administer the open range in the interest of its occupants. Vexed by these various vicissitudes, the industry has nevertheless survived and grown. Today, as in the past, the stockman's herds and flocks constitute the West's most valuable and dependable asset.

Base of Economic Structure

Even those states on the eastern fringe of the Old West, where all grassland available to the plow has long since been turned bottom side up, still regard live stock as their most dependable form of wealth.

One may journey through Kansas in early June and seemingly see nothing but wheat, while hidden among the blue-stem hills and in the rough breaks of the Medicine, the Smoky, and the Beaver, forbidden by nature to the plow, countless cattle are grazing which closely rival in the value of their annual product the fickle yields of this veritable ocean of grain. Cattle have definitely taken permanent possession of the Sand Hills of Nebraska and the Bad Lands of the Dakotas greatly to the economic advantage of those states.

In all the Rocky Mountain states, from New Mexico and Arizona in the south to Montana in the north, herds and flocks under the direction of hardy and self-reliant men annually convert into indispensable forms of wealth the seemingly worthless flora of the deserts and the well-nigh inaccessible plant life of the mountains.

Meat and wool, one might say, lie today at the very base of the economic structure of the West. The intricate process of producing them varies with local conditions and customs. The constant change that attends a growing population and an expanding civilization has largely domesticated the stockman and circumscribed the freedom of his life. The modern ranch home, the meadow and the sweep-rake have more or less usurped the place of the cow camp, the horse

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pasture, and the pack outfit. But cattle and sheep dominate the economic life of the West today quite as preponderantly as they have at any time since its great open spaces were first made available to their use four score years ago.

Left Indelible Impress

However, the clearest and most indelible mark left on the West by the early cowman and his calling was impressed on its social rather than on its economic life. On the Great Plains during the seventies and eighties, the cross currents of two tides of dissimilar men met and mingled. The man from the East was westward bound with his team or ox-wagon and plow in search of a home in a fresh country; the Texan was bound north with his cattle, seeking an outlet for them on the ranges that had just been vacated by the buffalo. These men from the South were natural products of the hard and adventurous life that had been their daily lot.

They had profited in character by reason of the dangers they had passed. Their trails traversed and ended in a country devoid for the most part of social or political organization. On the stage of this new, arid empire, the easterner, accustomed to the draft horse, the plow and the axe, had to play, save in exceptional instances, only a modest and unromantic role in support of the dashing hero of the act, the Texas cowman with his Spanish horse, his heavy stock saddle, and his six-shooter.

A social order that lacks political organization, wherein the individual, too civilized to revert to anarchy, must enact, codify, and enforce his own laws, requires that its worthy members shall possess three cardinal virtues above all others; namely, common sense, common honesty, and proficiency in self-discipline. His dangerous life had endowed the typical Texas cowman with a complete comprehension of the soundness of this principle and with a will to live level with its demands.

When these pioneers of the West, emerging from such dissimilar backgrounds and seeking such diverse objectives, mingled at the crossroads beyond the Missouri, it was inevitable that those who were most habituated to the conditions they there encountered should impress most distinctly their manners, their customs, and their own valiant character upon the new civilization that resulted.

Texans Molded Social Order

It was therefore the early cattlemen from Texas who imparted to the new civilization the social characteristics which distinguish it from other and older regions. From this source the West has drawn its strong devotion to freedom, its self-reliance, and its reputation for open and square dealing. Even its salty and picturesque idiom is a bequest from the cowcamp and the trail.

Born amid dangers and nourished by adventure, the West is still tinted by the

glamour of romance. It is well that normal men and women still covet its traditional spirit, even when it must now be synthetically conjured up in the atmosphere of the dude ranch or rodeo contest.

During the most alluring era of the cattle business, the social structure of the West received from an entirely alien source a contribution of blood and culture which added measurably to its native distinction and charm. This came in the persons of numerous young Britons and Scots of the best birth and breeding, sent over here to invest and administer the capital of their countrymen, attracted by the quick and excessive profits which the business was reputed to yield. These men, for the most part, brought to their unfamiliar surroundings a quiet but deep appreciation of the rugged native western character, a resolute courage and staunch integrity of their own, and an unfailing sense of humor, by virtue of which they were soon assimilated, and won for themselves a place to which must be ascribed great value and importance in any just appraisal of the early western scene.

Nearly All Gone

Today the stockmen who made the West have nearly all passed away. They have left the impress of their characters upon the attitudes, the habits, and the language of the inhabitants of a vast region. Apparently the West is destined always to be the West because of the standards they set and by virtue of the sterling principles that governed their lives. They fashioned an economic empire. They molded a unique social structure. We shall not see their like again.

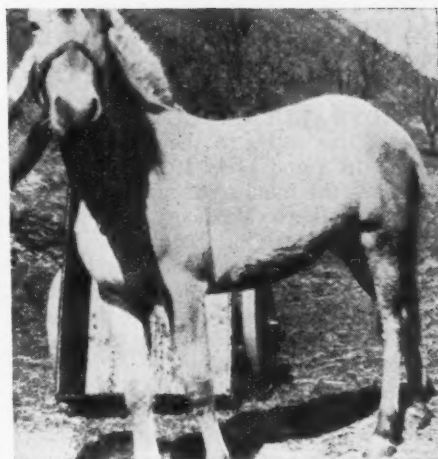
To have known and possessed the friendship of many of these men during the half century now ending, I count as one of the most precious privileges of my life.

On the recent occasion of the death of one of the most notable of their number, I addressed to his son this sentence: "With his passing we have seen the last of the vikings of the range." Then happily recalling that Cap Mossman and Jim Campbell still gallantly survive, I changed my message and made it read, "almost the last." May the remnant of this brave band live always. It will, I know, because the qualities exemplified by the lives of its members and the lives of its collaborators have immemorably merited and won the only brand of immortality that human experience can actually demonstrate.

CATTLE AND HORSE SHIPMENT FROM NORWAY

A HERD OF TWELVE COWS AND one bull of Norway's "Telemark" cattle and two mares and a stallion of "Westland" horses have been imported to the United States by John D. Reilly, president of Todd Shipyards Corporation, New York City.

The Telemark breed, Mr. Reilly be-



One of the Westland horses.

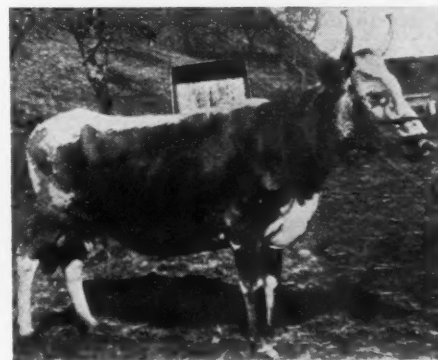
lieves, is well fitted to constitute a nucleus for crossbreeding tests with present stocks in this country. He would like to produce a dual-purpose animal suited to any part of the United States, thereby going a step further than the "Braford" breed—a cross between the Hereford and the Brahman—which has the Texas climate and conditions peculiarly in mind.

An authority on the Telemark breed, J. Baashuus-Jessen, State Stud-book Registrar, Oslo, Norway, in his *Live Stock Breeding in Norway*, says that the home of the breed is the mountain valleys in the county of Telemark, Norway, from where it has spread over other parts of the country. The breed on the whole is a profitable one, particularly on account of its rustling qualities, he says.

Live weight of the animal is about 770 pounds, but, by use of much concentrates and careful raising, the weight may be brought up to 1,100 pounds. Polled individuals are rare. The color is practically always red, with a broad white line along the spine and croup. The belly is white or brindled.

Reference is made to the close forms of inbreeding which is often used, with favorable results as a rule.

On the Westland horse, Mr. Baashuus-Jessen writes that the animal, no doubt, is a survival of the primeval horse of the country, which has persisted in the isolated fjord dales comparatively uninfluenced as to type until modern times.



A Norwegian Telemark cow.

CATTLE HERDS REDUCED IN NORTHERN MEXICO*

UNUSUALLY LARGE SHIPMENTS of live cattle to the United States in late 1938 and early 1939 have tended to reduce the number of marketable cattle on northern Mexican ranges. Imports of Mexican cattle into the United States in the first six months of 1939 totaled 344,000 head—an increase of 84 per cent above imports for the same period of 1938—according to United States trade statistics.

About 81 per cent of the imports from Mexico were non-concession cattle in the weight class between 200 and 700 pounds, and these paid the 1930 duty rate of 2.5 cents per pound. The duty on this weight class† was not changed in the Canadian trade agreement of 1936 or the agreement effective January 1, 1939. Imports of cattle weighing 700 pounds and over from Mexico during the first six months of 1939 totaled 37,000 head—an increase of 42 per cent above figures for the same period of 1938. Of that total, 1,414 head, imported in excess of the quota enjoying the reduced duty of 1.5 cents, paid the 1930 tariff rate of 3 cents. Mexico is the only country other than Canada shipping cattle to the United States in any appreciable number. The imports from Mexico also include some calves weighing under 200 pounds.

*Reprinted from "Foreign Crops and Markets," a Department of Agriculture weekly. The story is based largely upon reports from American consular officers stationed in northern Mexico.

†The 1939 Agreement changed the weight class to 200-700 pounds from the 175-700 pounds included in the 1936 agreement.

Under the terms of the 1939 trade agreement with Canada, the United States will admit annually not more than 225,000 head of cattle weighing 700 pounds or more (excluding dairy cows) at the reduced duty of 1.5 cents per pound. It is also provided that not more than 60,000 head of such cattle can enter in any calendar quarter. Mexico's share of the low-duty imports in the first quarter of 1939 came to 27,089 head, or 45 per cent of the quarterly quota. As of April 1, however, quota imports were allocated between Canada and "all other countries," which had the effect of reducing Mexico's share in the United States imports of this class to 13.8 per cent of the quarterly quotas and gave Mexico a total allowed low-duty figure of 43,649 head for the period January 1-September 30.

Assuming full utilization of the three 60,000-head quarterly quotas, there remain only 45,000 head admissible from all countries in the last quarter of the year, since the annual low-duty imports cannot exceed 225,000 head. The Mexican share of the fourth quarter quota, therefore, cannot exceed 13.8 per cent of the total for the quarter, or 6,210 head. Total low-duty imports from Mexico for 1939, therefore, can be no larger than 49,859 head. Of course, there is no limit to the number which may be entered by the payment of the 3-cent duty provided by the 1930 tariff act. Mexico also has been making moderate use of the low-duty (1.5 cents) annual quota of 100,000 head of calves weighing less than 200 pounds.

Among the several reasons for the heavy exports of Mexican cattle to the United States so far this year, the more

obvious ones are: (1) Feeder cattle prices in the United States higher than for any year since 1930; (2) lower import duties on some weight classes; (3) drought on the cattle ranges of northern Mexico. The less obvious reasons are the favorable exchange situation and uncertainty with respect to the effects of the Mexican government's land policy. This combination of circumstances has resulted in a movement of cattle from Mexico to the United States in the first six months of this year larger than in any entire year since 1915.

Early this year the Mexican government was asked by agrarians, labor unions, and local authorities in the northern states to restrict the movement of cattle to the United States or cut it off altogether for fear of a temporary shortage for domestic consumption and a rise in the cost of living. An increase in the Mexican export duty in the middle of February had little effect on shipments. Favorable exchange rates and the relatively high prices of feeder cattle in American markets nullified the slight extra cost represented by the export duty. A system of export permits also was adopted. Exports of heavier cattle, however, were reduced materially by the allocations applied by the United States after April 1.

Export restrictions placed on cattle by the Mexican government on December 21, 1938, were modified as of April 15, 1939, to allow the movement of cattle without a license, except female stock between two and ten years of age. In reply to the protests of ranchers against the control of exports of female stock, the government declared that herds were shrinking. A decree of July 21, raising the export duty from 49 pesos (\$7.40) to 55 pesos (\$8.42) per head, may tend to reduce imports as United States feeder prices work toward lower levels.

Changes in the United States tariff rates from time to time have affected shipment of Mexican cattle to this country materially. Under the Tariff Act of 1909, when the import duty on cattle was \$2 per head if less than one year old, \$3.75 per head if valued at \$14 each, and 27.5 per cent ad valorem when valued at more, imports of cattle from Mexico averaged 240,000 head for the five years ended June 30, 1913.

Under the Tariff Act of 1913, cattle were duty-free, but the Mexican government placed a high export duty on cattle at different periods, which was avoided in many instances by obtaining concessions. In 1914 imports into the United States from Mexico increased to 625,000 head but decreased gradually after that to 101,000 head in 1918, and from 1919 to 1926 imports were under 100,000 head annually and fell as low as 11,000 head in 1924.

Meanwhile there was enacted the Emergency Tariff of 1921, which provided a duty of 30 per cent ad valorem on cattle imports, and the Tariff Act of

MEXICO: Total cattle numbers 1902, 1926, 1930, and on communal farms 1935.

Zone and State	Estimate June 1902 Thous.	Estimate 1926 Thous.	Census May, 1930 Thous.	First Census 1935 Thous.	Percentage of 1930 Census Per Cent.
North Zone—					
Chihuahua	396	398	685	91	13
Zacatecas	190	230	541	106	2
Tamaulipas	178	140	340	30	9
San Luis Potosi.....	175	111	324	86	27
Durango	233	133	320	63	20
Nuevo Leon.....	123	148	300	13	4
Coahuila	182	102	226	12	5
Total	1,477	1,262	2,736	401	15
North Pacific Zone—					
Sonora	261	483	705	57	8
Sinaloa	106	224	417	14	3
Nayarit (Tepic).....	152	141	183	32	18
Lower California.....	52	130	138	1	2
Total	571	978	1,443	104	7
Total northern Zones.....	2,048	2,240	4,179	505	12
Central Zone.....	1,862	2,364	3,661	614	17
South Pacific Zone.....	509	511	1,204	130	11
Gulf Zone.....	723	470	1,039	155	15
Total Mexico	5,142	5,585	10,083	1,404	14

Primer Censo Agrícola Ganadero 1930, and Boletín Mensual de Estadística Agrícola, 129-140, February, 1937, to January, 1938.

1922 of 1.5 cents per pound on cattle under 1,050 pounds and 2 cents per pound on cattle weighing 1,050 pounds and over. Under the 1922 tariff, cattle imports from Mexico increased from 11,275 in 1924 to 245,000 head in 1929, and after the raising of the duty in 1930 imports again fell to less than 100,000 annually. In 1935, however, imports recovered to more than 250,000 head as a result of higher prices in American markets.

Approximately 28 per cent of all Mexican cattle shipments to the United States in 1938 came from the State of Chihuahua, and it is stated authoritatively that 60 per cent of the shipments from Chihuahua were from American-owned ranches. It is not clear as to just how important a factor the Mexican land policies have been in this year's cattle export movement. It is reported that many American cattlemen in Mexico have regained confidence since the agreement was reached providing for payment for land expropriated under the agrarian laws. Nevertheless, the fact that shipments were still fairly large in June and that a certain number of cattle are being held in bond in the United States awaiting the opening of the next quota suggests that, for various reasons, sales to the United States continue to look more attractive than the holding of cattle in northern Mexico.

During the Mexican revolution the ranches in northern Mexico were practically depleted of cattle. Mexico was in an unsettled state from 1910 to 1928, which precluded any tendency to restock, especially during the years 1910-17. Following the World War, however, when cattle prices were declining in the United States, many southwestern ranchers took advantage of the relatively higher prices in Mexico and other favorable factors to transfer their cattle across the border. Scarcity of stock as a result of depletion during the revolutionary activities of 1913-17 was reflected in attractive prices for beef in Mexican markets. In the later 1920's, advancing United States prices for cattle encouraged further investment in Mexican range lands. In 1930, when prices turned downward and United States import duties were increased, there were 3,028 persons of United States citizenship owning rural holdings in excess of 2.5 acres in Mexico. They formed the largest group of foreigners owning land in Mexico but constituted less than 1 per cent of the total number of owners of farms.

Prior to 1930 it was impossible to ascertain the exact number of Americans owning ranches in Mexico at any given time. Figures of the area and value of foreign rural holdings in Mexico were first officially collected in 1923 and those for nationality of owner in 1926-27, according to an investigation made under the auspices of the Brookings Institution. According to this study, approximately 40,914,000 acres, or 52 per cent, of the total foreign rural holdings in Mexico,

valued at 5,000 pesos and over, were owned by persons of United States nationality. The largest area, or 9,949,000 acres, was in Chihuahua, the next largest, or 4,158,000 acres, in Sonora. American rural holdings in Lower California, especially the northern part, constituted 97 per cent of total foreign rural holdings. In Campeche, 99 per cent were held by citizens of the United States, in Sonora, 86 per cent, and in Chihuahua, 48 per cent.

The 1930 census, which was the first complete census for all Mexico, enumerated 10,083,000 head of cattle. Accurate comparisons cannot be made with earlier years owing to different methods of estimating, but it seems probable that the losses of revolutionary times had not been fully recouped by 1930. There

has been no national census since that date. A return to the prerevolutionary scale of operations, however, seems unlikely for the near future. The cattle industry of northern Mexico was built up to supply a broader market in the United States than has been available in recent years, and consumption in Mexico has not developed to the point of compensating for the restricted American outlet.

A recent estimate of the number of live stock in Mexico was published in the official Boletín Mensual de Estadística which placed cattle numbers in 1937 at 11,841,000. This is an increase of 1,758,000 above the 1930 census. This figure was obtained by estimating the natural increase during the eight years 1930 to 1937 and the estimated disap-

UNITED STATES: Imports of dutiable cattle from Mexico, according to different weights and tariff duties, 1921 to June, 1939.

	Under 1050 Pounds	1050 Pounds and Over	Total	
Emergency Tariff Act of 1921, effective May 27, 1921—				
Duty (per cent ad. val.).....			30	
Imports—				
1921 (number)	*	*	4,774	
1922 Jan. 1-Sept. 20 (number).....	*	*	153,847	
Tariff Act of 1922, effective Sept. 21, 1922—				
Duty (cents per lb.).....	1.5	2		
Imports				
1922 Sept. 21-Dec. 31 (number).....	73,540	8,613	82,153	
1923 (number)	12,594	38	12,632	
1924 (number)	11,271	4	11,275	
1925 (number)	24,048	38	24,086	
1926 (number)	48,076	55	48,131	
1927 (number)	143,422	417	143,839	
1928 (number)	237,894	1,219	239,113	
1929 (number)	244,884	440	245,324	
1930 Jan.-June (number).....	150,246	490	150,736	
	Under 700 Pounds	700 Pounds and Over	Total	
Tariff Act of 1930, effective June 17, 1930—				
Duty (cents per lb.).....	2.5	3		
Imports—				
1930 July-Dec. (number).....	20,178	45	20,223	
1931 (number).....	65,134	749	65,883	
1932 (number).....	89,078	335	89,413	
1933 (number).....	62,281	44	62,325	
1934 (number).....	55,203	650	55,853	
1935 (number).....	242,468	8,622	251,090	
	Under 175 Pounds	175 to 699 Pounds	700 Pounds and Over	Total
First Canadian Trade Agreement, effective Jan. 1, 1936—				
Duty (cents per lb.).....	1.5	2.5	2	
Quota, Global (no. per yr.).....	51,933		155,799	
Imports—				
1936 (number)	†1,615	140,241	†22,190	164,046
1937 (number)	†1,259	172,717	†24,792	198,768
1938 (number)	2,062	233,752	49,740	285,554
1938 Jan.-June only (no.).....	1,865	159,172	25,628	186,665
	Under 200 Pounds	200 to 699 Pounds	700 Pounds and Over	Total
New Canadian Trade Agreement, effective Jan. 1, 1939—				
Duty (cents per lb.).....	1.5	2.5	1.5	
Quota, Global (no. per yr.).....	100,000		225,000	
(no. per qtr.).....			†60,000	
Imports—				
1939 Jan.-June (no.).....	28,571	278,451	†36,783	343,805

* Not available by weight groups. †Includes a few imported at 1930 rate of duty after quota was filled. ‡Since April 1, countries other than Canada have been allotted 13.8 per cent of the quarterly quotas. If quota for the third quarter is filled, the global quota for the last quarter will be 45,000.

pearance through inspected and uninspected slaughter, net exports, and deaths during the same period, and not by an actual count of numbers in any certain locality. It is stated that live stock numbers in Mexico have by no means reached the limit of the capacity of the country and that the present number could be doubled. A Mexican government veterinary official calculated in 1934 that the republic had the capacity of supporting 20,000,000 head of cattle.

In 1930 the State of Sonora had the largest number of cattle of any of the northern states, or 705,000. In 1912 the number of cattle in the clean district of Sonora, that is, free of the Texas fever tick, was estimated by a prominent American ranchman, at the request of the Sonora state government, at 2,000,000 head. The number of cattle in the State of Chihuahua was estimated at 1,266,000 in the governor's report to the state legislature in October, 1937, according to consular advices. This compares with an estimate of 1,028,000 in 1935 and the 1930 census of 685,000. In 1925 the number was as low as 297,000 head. The 1930 census shows that, of the total area in Sonora of 16,000,000 acres, 76 per cent was grazing land, whereas in Chihuahua, of the 51,000,000 acres, 69 per cent was grazing land.

The establishment of communal farms

(Ejidios) is part of the current Mexican agricultural policy. The 1935 census of communal farms, as compared with the 1930 national census, shows that the number of cattle on communal farms in Chihuahua in 1935 was 13 per cent of the cattle numbers reported in the 1930 census, the percentage in Sonora was 8 per cent, and in Durango, 20 per cent. These are relatively small percentages and do not necessarily mean that smaller numbers of cattle are being carried on the ranges. So far, the communal farms have absorbed only a small part of the Mexican cattle industry. For all Mexico, the 1935 communal census shows that about 14 per cent of the total 1930 numbers were found on such farms.

ALL BETS ARE OFF IN PRESENT CONFUSION

BY JAMES E. POOLE

PHANTASMA GENERATE IN commodity circles with the same celerity that a cigarette stub ignites a hay mow. In such emergencies, to borrow from race-track argot, "all bets are off;" new books are made. Inherently and congenitally bullish, traders mark up price, frequently without consideration of facts or probabilities. Financially, industrially, and agriculturally confusion has followed apathy bordering on minor depression. Much of what has happened recently lacks sense, but articulate opinion favors appreciation.

What Congress may do must be reckoned with. Results of the special session will be momentous. When the European war acquires a stride, mutations will be rapid; also eccentric. The immediate result is a marked change in production psychology. Restraint will probably go by the board, as producers are not in that mood. Contraband lists are subject to revision. In any event, food will be put in that category.

Twenty-dollar cattle may be considered an hallucination at this juncture; also \$15 hogs. During the initial period of the last war, prices did not spiral. In fact, live stock was in a rut until the United States took a hand in the melee, whereupon provisioning training camps turned the trick. Dollar corn and wheat may be an immediate prospect, despite heavy stocks, as holders are bullish and they will have much to say concerning values.

Immediate significant results are:

Sharp appreciation in wool and hide prices.

A booming stock cattle market, on the theory that fat cattle will advance and despite increasing gain cost.

A switch by beef-makers from peewee replacement cattle to heavy yearlings and two-year-olds for a quick turn on corn.

A corn crib padlocking movement.

Irritation in consumer psychology by what is pronounced "profiteering." Re-

tail prices advanced sharply during the temporary scarcity period but will not react to previous levels.

Extravagant Reports Afloat

Canard follows canard, only to be disproved. One was that Canada had abrogated its tariff on hog products to increase its British market quota. Another that Washington proposed limiting daily changes in the live-stock market to 25 cents per cwt., thus adopting the same policy as in grain.

That 175 carloads of dressed beef had been ordered by Canada to replenish the British larder.

That Argentine beef would be moved in large quantities to United States market for trans-shipment to Europe.

Domestic cattle prices are too high for establishing a dressed-beef trade with England. Current and domestic supply of that commodity is barely equal to domestic needs at prices consumers will pay. Following a slight overload of heavy beef in July and August, market atmosphere has clarified; current production is about equal to weekly consumption at going prices, which are touching the "ceiling."

Lard Stocks Reduced

Stocks of pork and lard have been reduced by heavy domestic consumption due to low prices and export expansion in expectancy of war. Killers are now in a mood to replenish stocks in confidence that the investment is sound.

Ovine product, especially lamb, is remote from war influence, as not a pound is exported or would be utilized for military camp purposes if war comes in this direction.

Recent enormous pork imports from Europe, mainly Poland, are a chapter of history. Beef, canned, imports from South America to the United States will expand as the trans-Atlantic movement is curtailed. Despite the present duty of 6 cents per pound, the stuff sells freely at 15 to 16½ cents per pound and is the cheapest meat available. In the event that Secretary Hull succeeds in putting over his Argentine commercial treaty, now sizzling in the fire, the duty will inevitably be reduced as a quid pro quo for similar concessions by the South American government, possibly to 3¼ cents, the present rate on Polish pork.

Speculation as to what the future conceals is futile. Raising the embargo on munitions, either on a cash and carry or credit basis, necessitating repeal of the Johnson Act, will stimulate certain industries, reduce unemployment, and, incidentally, expand demand for meat, probably at higher prices. Theorizing concerning developments should the United States become involved finds partial solution in the history of the last war, especially during its final stages.

Markets Choppy

For the present and immediate future a choppy set of live-stock markets looms. Every branch of the trade has emerged

UNITED STATES—Average price per 100 pounds of stocker and feeder steers of weights from 501 to 700 pounds at Kansas City, 1929-1939.

Annual	Monthly	
	1938	1939
1929.....\$10.45	Jan.\$7.02	\$8.36
1930..... 8.17	Feb. 7.18	8.77
1931..... 5.89	Mar. 7.66	9.15
1932..... 4.88	Apr. 7.46	9.16
1933..... 4.14	May 7.79	8.95
1934..... 4.07	June 7.35	8.07
1935..... 6.88	July 7.29	7.65
1936..... 6.39	Aug. 7.38	
1937..... 7.50	Sep. 7.36	
1938..... 7.49	Oct. 7.55	
	Nov. 7.77	
	Dec. 7.87	

United States Department of Agriculture.

MEXICO CITY—Average price of beef per 100 pounds, annual 1929-1938, and monthly, January-June 1938, 1939.

Annual	Monthly	
	1938	1939
1929.....\$8.98	Jan.\$5.29	\$4.24
1930..... 7.85	Feb. 5.03	4.53
1931..... 5.94	Mar. 4.99	
1932..... 4.11	Apr. 5.14	4.54
1933..... 3.20	May 4.95	4.81
1934..... 3.09	June 4.65	
1935..... 3.70	July 5.29	
1936..... 3.96	Aug. 5.10	
1937..... 5.02	Sep. 5.03	
1938..... 4.89	Oct. 4.64	
	Nov. 4.35	
	Dec. 4.25	

Compiled from Boletín Mensual de Estadística Agrícola; July, 1938, to date from Revista de Estadística, converted from peso per kilogram to United States dollars per 100 pounds at current monthly rates of exchange.

from the rut traveled up to mid-August. Except in a psychological sense, the advance in fat cattle cannot be attributed to war demand for beef. The upturn in replacement cattle and lamb cost is also psychological, based on expectancy of mounting fat-cattle cost. Money is easy, new men are in the game, and there is a tendency to take a chance. That beef production during the ensuing six months will not exceed that of the previous corresponding period is a reasonable assertion. Feeders are jockeying with the market, visible supply of fat cattle is dwindling, and time will be needed to create new tonnage. Hogs will be fed out at reasonable weight, and, should price justify carrying, a crop of fatbacks is inevitable, as weight has gone to a premium and the corn-hog ratio is still favorable to growers.

Meat-makers are not unanimous. The majority is anxious to count its money. Long feeds, always delusive, are far from popular, and remunerative prices will attract live stock to the butcher. Rampant bullishness was dispelled by the crash following the early September price spiral. Feeders realize that an upturn of \$1 per cwt. or more develops a cul-de-sac.

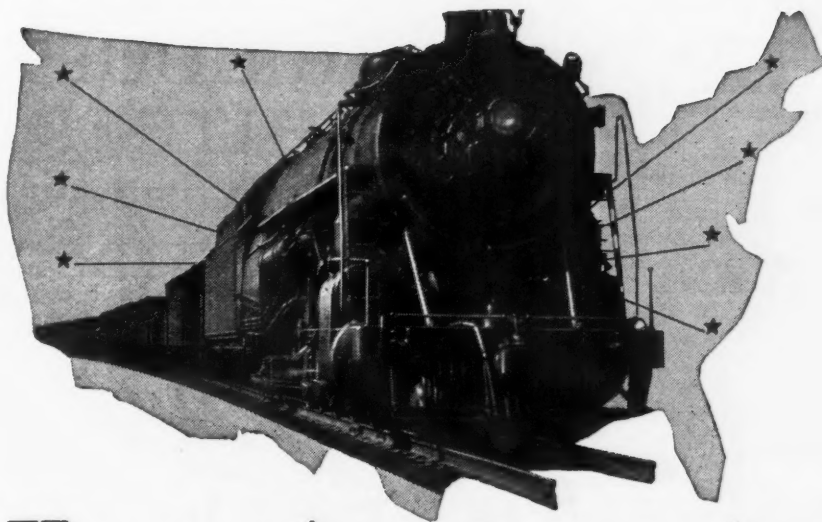
High-cost beef—and the consumer regards the commodity in that light—will divert consumer attention to competitive and cheaper foods. The common beef of commerce, formerly plentiful, is actually scarce—a sequence of drought, to a large extent. No longer does western grass beef glut the fall market to go into freezers by the thousand tons and form a backlog against winter and spring demand. Cow beef, which many retailers formerly handled exclusively, has never been so scarce; dairy culls landing in the freezer boxes scattered all over the hinterland and the bovine dregs of the market command the same attention by processors as the high lights of the several price brackets.

Fewer Long-Feds Expected

An advancing corn market will have a tendency to dislodge cattle from feeders' hands prematurely and with deficient weight and finish whenever they have an opportunity to recover the investment and pay well for the board bill. The higher corn goes, the fewer heavy long-fed steers will materialize during the latter half of 1940.

Meanwhile, although beef trade can absorb relatively few big carcasses, supply has been whittled down to a volume where absorption is not difficult. Heavy steers are now back in the high price bracket, leading yearlings by a nose. Between now and Christmas they should be equal to a more creditable performance, although New York and Boston demand has never been so fickle. "Set-ups" are frequent, a brisk morning market frequently petering out before noon, while yearlings and light steers under 1,000 pounds are always salable.

Up to late August feeders gave light calves and yearlings a strong play, theorizing that heavy fat cattle were a



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bad proposition. Then when the big brutes advanced a dollar or more they switched overnight. This may not make sense, but it illustrates a regularly recurring trade vagary.

Shoats Good Property

Packers figure the new hog crop around 15 per cent larger than the last. Incensed by low prices all summer, growers began dumping light shoats, 120 to 150 pounds, in August, expecting corn in the crib to bring more money than if transferred to the hog's back; but, when the sow crop ran out and 250- to 300-pound barrows hopped into the top price range, they changed their tactics. Packers are now bidding for weight, the lard bugaboo has disappeared, and farmers figure that shoats are good property. Packers have cleaned up handsome inventory profits on the last crop of hogs and contemplate a similar operation with the new crop. Suggestion of an 8-cent winter hog market elicits their derision, but that is the mark they may be under the necessity of toeing. Increase in southern pork production is calculated to exert restraint on winter prices.

Lamb Prospects Better

Lamb trade, having passed through a series of bumps, is ripe for improved action. The northwestern crop is being whittled down, eastern lambs have gone to the meat-rack, and the native, or Corn Belt, crop is disappearing into the interior packing-house maw. Packers have been under the necessity of killing lambs in merely feeder flesh to hold prices down and secure an adequate meat supply. Otherwise top lambs would have got away from them. A limited quantity of lamb can be used at a "good" price; increase volume even slightly and the dressed market collapses.

Feeders were never so jumpy. When prices of any of the species advance, they order cars and file truck requisitions, insuring feast and famine supplies that keep processors guessing from week to week concerning available volume. Sudden variations in hoof cost are reflected in the dressed market, which is supersensitive.



"MAW'S SURE MAD—THE HOG WON MORE MEDALS THAN SHE DID"

AGRICULTURE—WHITHER BOUND?

BY O. B. JESNESS

(Western stockmen will be interested in a middle-westerner's point of view on our troublesome farm problem. Mr. Jesness, who is chief of the division of agricultural economics of the University of Minnesota, presented the following in an address at the convention of the Colorado Wool Growers' Association at Glenwood Springs, Colorado, July 28.—Ed.)

EVER SINCE 1920 THERE HAS been talk of surpluses in agriculture and their depressing effects upon prices and farm income. Agricultural programs involving more governmental participation in agricultural planning than characteristic of modern times have developed from this situation. Efforts have been put forth to curb production and hold products off the market in order to raise prices. It is not the intent here to review either the conditions giving rise to these programs or the details of the programs themselves. You are well informed with regard to them. The time allotted to me will be used instead for a consideration of some of the fundamentals involved in the present situation, in the hope that this may shed some light on where we are going.

Inadequate Market

The farmer finds himself in a situation where there is not an adequate market to absorb at satisfactory prices all the products he stands ready to produce. When industry faces such a condition it promptly adjusts production. The result is that industrial prices tend to be maintained. Agriculture cannot readily adjust by individual action because it is carried on by such a large number of individual producers. Consequently it takes its adjustment mainly in lowered prices. This fact has paved the way for government aid to help the farmers do what they are unable to accomplish by themselves.

As an emergency attack upon the problem, there is much to be commended in the efforts at agricultural adjustment. One must grant that there is no merit in producing for markets which do not exist. The plowing under of crops may be justified by the contention that this is no worse than "plowing workers out on the streets" by factory shutdowns. However, we are not interested in mere justification. Farmers want remedies.

To the extent the problem is one of excess productive capacity, the solution must be either recovery and expansion of the market or else permanent shrinkage of the agricultural industry. Consideration of market recovery involves both the foreign and the domestic mar-

ket. I discussed the importance of export recovery yesterday and will not take time to go into that again. Let us, however, remember that the extent to which we recover exports depends upon our own willingness to accept imports. The problem of recovery is not easy to solve. The foreign market will not come back of its own accord; we must go after it.

Industrial Recovery Important

What about the domestic market? The agricultural situation is the result, to an important degree, of conditions in non-agricultural lines. An important share of the solution of agricultural difficulties lies in the recovery of production and employment in other fields. Such recovery will increase the buying power of consumers of farm products and enable them to buy larger quantities or pay higher prices. It will also expand outlets for farm products which enter into industrial uses. But there is an additional reason why farmers are concerned with industrial recovery. During most of the history of this country there has been a movement of population from the country to the city. Lack of employment opportunities in cities during the past decade has left more people on farms than needed to supply markets in prospect. Employment recovery is needed to provide outlets for this population and facilitate necessary adjustments.

Farmers and farm groups would appear entirely justified in calling the attention of government, industry, and labor to their interest in recovery of production and employment. Do we not tend to worship too much at the shrine of prices and wage rates and fail to give enough attention to production? It is production, not lack of it, which satisfies wants. If we are to raise the national income and have higher standards of living, we need to produce more, not less. Distribution of income is important and is far from perfect. However, if the total income is inadequate, there is no way of distributing it so that it will be adequate to go around. Income depends upon quantity as well as price, on hours worked as well as rates per hour.

Leaders of large-scale industry and of labor may contend that they are subject to forces beyond their control and that emphasis on price maintenance rather than on operating at a normal rate during depressions is unavoidable. However, it cannot be gainsaid that such leaders have much more direct control over output than is true of the farmer. That control entails responsi-

bilities for seeing that everything possible is done to keep our production machinery in operation. The interests of society in general must not be overlooked in striving for the maintenance of individual, group, or industry position.

Man Still Inventive

There are those who say that private endeavor will not be able to provide work opportunities for all in the future. The same observation has been made before during times of depression. Certainly our ability to satisfy wants has not outrun our ability to think up new ones. It may be that the disappearance of physical frontiers may slow down our advances because we no longer can exploit natural resources at the former rate. However, I for one do not believe that man's inventiveness has reached its end.

It may be true that it will be difficult for all the present unemployed to fit themselves into private production once more. If so, there will be grounds for programs of public employment to take up the slack. However, if the ends of society are to be served, this employment must yield returns to society of a worthwhile character and not merely be an excuse for the distribution of public funds. A point not always kept in mind is that if the national income is spent for one purpose it is not available for other purposes. The common notion that private uses of capital are invariably productive, while public uses are unproductive is far from correct. The important thing is to see that as far as possible productive use is made of our capital, labor, and other resources, whether the activity is under public or private direction. Only if this is done will the highest possible standards be attained.

To the extent market recovery does not provide outlets for the existing agricultural plant, a shrinkage in it is needed. If more people than needed to supply agricultural markets continue in farming, the dividing of the agricultural income among this larger number will mean a smaller per capita income than if the excess farm population can find other productive opportunities. The latter is the permanent remedy which we should seek.

Should Subsidies Continue?

Are we to continue paying subsidies to farmers in order to raise their incomes? Initially, these were regarded as a temporary stop-gap, but as time goes on the prospects of their continuance increase. This is not an unusual result of subsidies. One important question which deserves careful consideration arises in this connection. Will subsidies encourage more persons than needed to remain in farming? If so, will such subsidies in the longer run be of any benefit even to their recipients?

Much is being said about providing financial aid to so-called "disadvantaged

classes." This has much appeal from the social point of view, and I suspect all of us will go a long ways in approving the aims of this part of the program. There is a question, however, which seems deserving of some thought. In programs of aid to so-called underprivileged, do we not need to recognize that all cases are not alike? Some are capable farmers who are victims of circumstances beyond their control, while in other cases the individual himself and his limitations are the important factors. A goodly number of persons engaged in agriculture are not really commercial farmers contributing materially to market supplies. We are faced with a situation which seems to require a shrinking of our agricultural industry. If public grants encourage the disadvantaged generally to remain in farming, the shifts out of agriculture will draw most heavily from the ranks of those better equipped to take care of themselves. This may be advisable. However, it suggests another reason why it is important to consider the probable consequences of various subsidies before they become too permanent a fixture in our agriculture.

The desirable goal in agriculture remains that of producing our requirements as efficiently as possible. This involves utilization of the agricultural plant as nearly as possible to capacity consistent with its permanent maintenance. The only permanent remedy for an overexpansion beyond market capacity is that of shrinking the industry rather than utilizing existing units on some part-time basis. Any longer-run direction established to adjust production should seek to leave as much flexibility as possible in the adjustments open to the individual operator. Agriculture is a dynamic industry. Its methods and relative importance of different products are subject to constant change. There is danger in controls which tie us too strongly to some past situation. If new and better methods and products are developed, the interests of society call for their adoption rather than for their suppression even though adaptations may need to be made in consequence.

Price Panaceas

Much emphasis has been placed on parity prices and income. Their limitations need to be understood more clearly. There is no such a thing as a desirable all-time price parity for products generally. Such parity would assume that either there is no change in the efficiency of production or that the change proceeds at the same rate for all products. Neither is true. What prices would you have to pay for automobiles or tires if they were to be restored to the pre-war relationship to other products? Their prices would be very much higher, especially if allowances were made for quality improvements. The efficiency in producing automobiles, tires, and radios has increased more rapidly than that

for many other products, and the gains rightly have been shared with consumers in the form of lower prices. Insistence on price parity would introduce rigidities into a price structure which in many cases already lacks sufficient flexibility.

Price fixing is advocated as a substitute for production adjustment in some quarters. Under any semblance of democracy, the consumer retains considerable freedom as to what and how much he will buy. Prices may be fixed but you cannot force consumers to take all products offered. Government could not undertake to fix prices without setting up limits as to amounts of products to which such prices would apply. This almost inevitably would involve determining who is to share in the market and what amount each may be permitted to sell. Price fixing will not solve the problem of supply control in agriculture. It is desirable that we think through these problems fully before we become too much committed to a certain program of action.

In the matter of price, agriculture may have more to gain from increased flexibility of nonagricultural prices rather than from making agricultural prices more rigid. At least, this is a matter which deserves fully as much attention at the hands of government as given to schemes of price maintenance.

Ever-Normal Granary

How important a part is the so-called "ever-normal granary" likely to play in our future agricultural programs? Its objectives often are described broadly as being those of protecting farmers against the disastrous price effects of surpluses and consumers against shortages. This has undoubted appeal. However, the idea may easily be oversimplified. As a matter of fact, carryovers of such staple products as grain, cotton, wool, and tobacco are quite customary. The question is how much further it is desirable to go in this practice. Clearly, it is not adapted to perishable commodities. Its sponsors, however, hope that a stabilizing of feed supplies may reduce variations in live stock and live-stock products.

Will prices when products are moved into storage rise more than prices subsequently will be lowered upon their removal? Will the difference be sufficient to cover costs of storage? Will pressure from groups interested in price raising hamper withdrawals from storage? In the case of products dependent upon export markets may not price benefits go to competing countries and our share in the world market be reduced? Something of this sort seems to be happening in cotton. We had better foresee consequences of this kind in advance before the damage is done.

How well will the program serve consumers? After all, general crop failures are not common and world failures are so unlikely as to cause no particular

concern. The protection at best can be only partial, and consumers will be called upon to share in the public costs of the program.

Ironing out variations in supplies due to unusually favorable or unfavorable producing seasons is one problem. The ever-normal granary frequently is suggested for such a situation. The handling of recurring surpluses represents a different problem. If surpluses arise from an overextended agriculture, putting them away in order to maintain the market will be a repetition of farm board experience unless accompanied by effective production curtailment.

Thus, while the objectives of the ever-normal granary appear most desirable, the means for their attainment involve knotty problems which need to be recognized, not ignored.

Land Booms Harmful

Land prices clearly have a direct bearing on the present agricultural situation. Prices of farm land, particularly in the Middle West, rose steadily for decades prior to the World War. The rise was accentuated during the years immediately preceding the war when, as many of you will recall, public concern was over the high cost of living rather than over farm surpluses. The war brought an extremely rapid rise in land prices in many areas. Farm mortgage debt rose in the same manner. The peak in land prices was reached in 1920. The break in prices caused a drastic fall in land in the early twenties followed by a more gradual decline. Debt, however, continued at the high level. In fact, it increased so that the peak was not reached until 1928. The general depression starting in 1929 brought a further break in land, so that by the early thirties farm land in the Middle West and West in many cases was lower in price than before the war. While mortgage debts have been reduced materially, many farmers are still staggering under a very heavy load. The adjustment is not yet completed.

For agricultural welfare in the future it is important that speculative orgies in land be avoided. Buyers of land should remember that they are really buying the right to the future earnings of the land, and it is only worth those earnings capitalized to their present value. Farm owners undoubtedly like to see their land rise in price, because such advances represent a gain in the valuation of their holdings and in that sense is a form of income which may be realized when the land is sold. Legitimate rises due to increases in net income from the land are quite different, however, from those based on over-expectations of the future.

Tenancy Not Necessarily Evil

Land prices are associated with the problem of tenancy. Losses of farms through debt have increased tenancy. Inability to pay for high-priced farms

out of earnings is another factor. Under our system, ownership by the operator is regarded as desirable, and legitimate aids to this end are justified. However, the institution of tenancy is not an evil in itself. It has good as well as bad features. The object should be to improve upon it rather than to eliminate it. The idea, popular in some quarters, that all tenants should be aided through subsidy to become owners is unsound. Not all tenants are ready for or capable of successful ownership. Such a program generally applied would involve a tremendous drain on the public treasury and would tend to defeat itself through the stimulating effect it would have on land values.

One is justified in being skeptical about the long-run benefits from a program of subsidizing farmers who are in debt by providing for an artificially low rate of interest. This, of course, lowers their burden of debt in the immediate present. However, if persisted in permanently the low rate will be bid into higher land values and lead to a higher total of debt. Moreover, such a program is not of help to all farmers but only to those who are indebted to those agencies which provide the subsidized rate.

There is much concern at present over soil conservation. This is a matter which is of public interest. Wind or water erosion may permanently damage or even destroy valuable land. Moreover, the damage from erosion frequently falls upon others than the immediate owners or operators of the land directly affected. The individual operator, however, is not free from responsibility. In the future, greater emphasis is likely to be put on the point that the right to use the soil and natural resources does not include a right to misuse them.

Conservation and Production

At present, a close tie-up has been made between the idea of soil conservation and production adjustment. The two are not necessarily compatible. Soil loss is a physical rather than an economic problem. The land will wash and the dust will blow when markets are favorable as well as when prices are low. The soil-depleting characteristics of a crop are not dependent upon its market supply. Soil wastage may be associated with high prices of war time when there is demand for enhanced output as well as with depression prices when the emphasis is on curtailment. Efforts to curb production of cash crops by shifting acres to grass and legumes may in time have far-reaching effects on live-stock production and lead to unbalancing in other directions. Our program of soil conservation, therefore, should not be made dependent upon a program of production adjustment.

The building up of soil fertility is primarily a responsibility of the individual. Soil fertility, it is true, affects losses from erosion. But the primary

purpose of increasing soil fertility is to increase output and lower costs of production. Programs to build up soil fertility through the use of public funds and at the same time to increase the price of products to the public have elements of inconsistency that will not appeal to the public as desirable long-time policy.

Will Control Continue?

Is our agriculture of the future going to continue to be the subject of control and planning? There is a tendency on the part of some to magnify the ability of government to carry on economic planning. Government activities are administered by human beings made of the same clay as the rest of us. They are prone to make the same errors. They do not have any occult powers. In addition, groups seeking special consideration of their interests frequently subject government agencies to pressures which make it difficult for them always to employ their best judgment.

When one suggests some of the limitations of governmental planning, he also must recognize the limitations of the other extreme, namely the idea that the situation will right itself through individual action if government only will stay out of the picture. I do not belong to the school that seems to believe that everything will come out all right if all responsibility is left to individual initiative. Neither do I belong to the opposite extreme which seems to regard government as omnipotent. There is a place for public action. But if we are to continue to have any semblance of freedom of enterprise and a democratic system, individuals must not shirk their responsibilities. Some wag has said that "man wants government to support him; not to tax him." I fear that this comes too close to representing the attitude of many people to be comforting.

In a democracy, public policy is shaped by public opinion. That is something to be thankful for and something worth preserving. But what does this involve? It means that to have satisfactory public policies we must have intelligent public opinion. This can only come about if the general run of people think seriously about our problems and seek to arrive at sound judgments. That thinking must recognize broader con-

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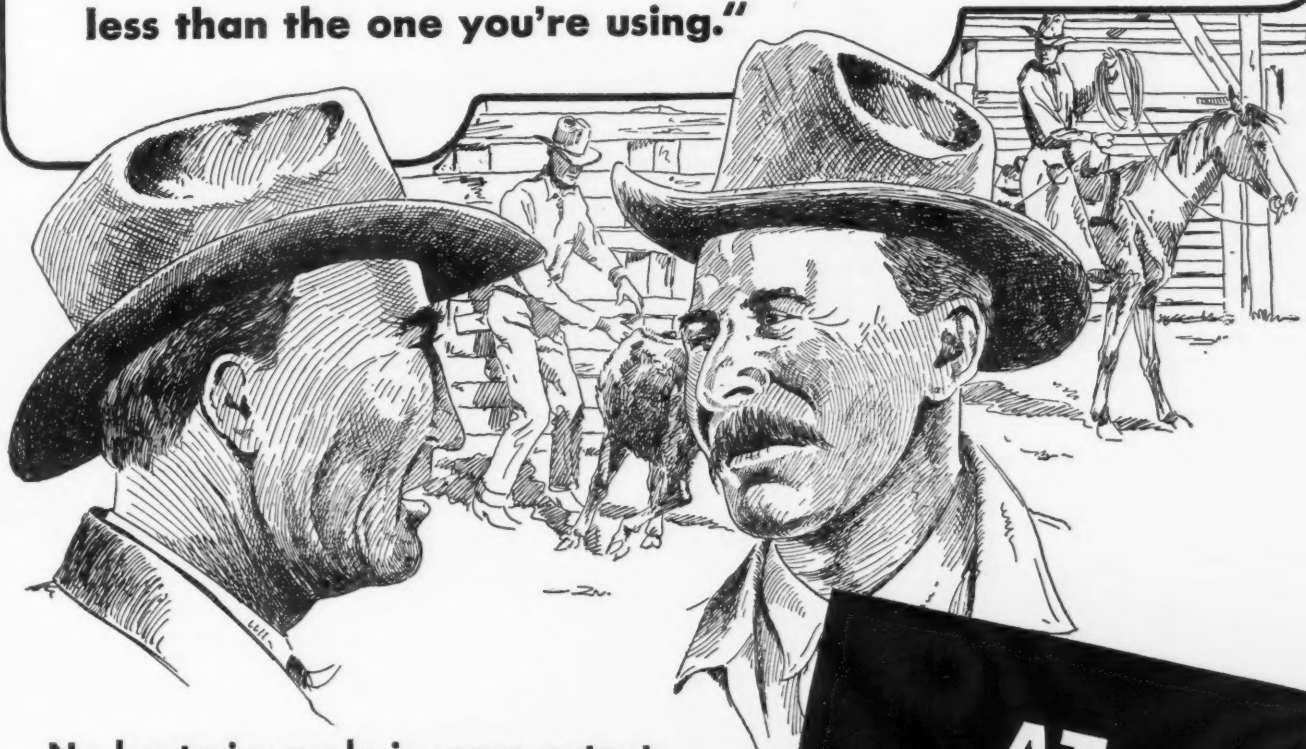
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siderations of general welfare rather than to spring only from narrow self-interest.

I am not assuming that we are likely to achieve a millenium where thoughts of self and self-interest will no longer occupy a place in the mind of man. However, there is a vast difference between narrow selfishness and the enlightened variety which recognizes the rights of others and appreciates the mutuality of interests.

Group Discussion Desirable

The old town meeting, for which New England is noted, has been heralded far and wide as an important force in maintaining democracy. Certainly it is true that participation by citizens generally in discussions and considerations of public policies and social and economic questions is highly desirable. Fortunately, present agricultural programs provide considerable opportunity for this sort of thing. Perhaps that opportunity is not utilized as fully as possible. It is not enough merely that farmers acquiesce in programs developed in Washington. Perhaps too much time is given over to telling farmers of the merits of the program and too little to listening to their reactions. Farmer committees are highly desirable in making such programs work. Their members, however, need to think of their positions as farmers rather than as committee members. If they become too concerned about the latter, they tend to represent bureaucracy rather than to be a cornerstone of democracy.

There is need for more meeting on common ground of agriculture, labor, and industry. Often one hears it said that one group should support the demands of another as return for support the latter has given to its programs. In real life, such considerations are sure to play a part. However, this program should not be one of blind support. Frequently the right is not all on one side. Every question should be considered in relation to its effect on general welfare. Only if this is done can the most effective ironing out of differences take place.

Must Do Own Thinking

Where then is agriculture headed? The answer depends in a large measure upon how well we think through our problems, upon how intelligent public opinion is, and how each one does his part. The agricultural problem is not separate and distinct from problems of other groups. There is need for recognition of the mutuality of interests. Will farmers demand that their interests be served at all costs? Will labor take a similar position? Will industry seek special advantages? Will the unemployed, the aged, the veterans, and other special groups think only of themselves and immediate gains in demands upon government? Or will all of us seek ends that will serve the ends of general welfare and in that way benefit all?

The problem is not easy and there is no single magic solution. It is difficult to see, however, why a nation and a people such as ours will not be able to adjust their productive efforts and the distribution of results in such a way as to provide better living for all. The attainment of this end in a democracy requires intelligent thinking and participation of people generally. Are we willing to put forth the effort involved in thinking these problems through or would we rather let some one else do the thinking for us and then tell us what to do? When that occurs, democracy is at an end.

MEETING NOTES

OFFICERS OF THE GREENLEE County Cattle Growers' Association (re-elected at an annual meeting August 26) are: Travis M. Davis, president; W. E. McLaughlin, vice-president; Mrs. Joe Chesser, secretary; Harry A. Day, state director; Musset Cosper, Mrs. Bonnie Elrage, R. O. Barnes, Pete Trainor, and Joe Slaughter, directors. The 225 cattlemen at the meeting, held at the Ivan McKinney ranch on Eagle Creek, approved a resolution asking that all county assessors adopt a uniform assessment for grazing lands throughout the state.

McCURTAIN COUNTY MEETING

The annual convention of the McCurtain County Live Stock Association was held at Broken Bow, Oklahoma, September 8-9. Convention sessions were held in the morning of each day; afternoons and evenings were devoted to rodeo exhibitions. An added feature was a large showing of fine bred stock, with substantial prizes offered by the association and business men of Broken Bow. Convention addresses were made the first day by C. P. Thompson, of the A. and M. College at Stillwater, Hon. Cyrus S. Avery, of Tulsa, and Dr. C. C. Hisel, former state veterinarian, of Oklahoma City. On the final day, Shawnee Brown, of the A. and M. College, F. E. Mollin, Senator Josh Lee, and Congressman Wilburn Cartwright spoke. Of particular interest was organization during the convention of a junior cattlemen's association. In active charge of the program was President Joe Fleming, ably assisted by members of the executive committee.

NORTHEAST PANHANDLE MEETING

On September 4 the Northeast Panhandle Feeders' Association held its annual barbecue at Canadian, Texas. Anyone who had formed false impressions of the quality of American beef, due to the recent unwarranted and unproved assertion of quality elsewhere, should have been on hand. The beef was truly "fit for a king," and the large number of cattlemen, some of whom came from distances of fifty miles or more, gave ample evidence that it suited their taste exactly. Prior to the barbecue,

a brief, informal meeting was held, at which F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, discussed current problems, stressing the importance to the industry of fighting whole-heartedly against further cuts in the tariff under the reciprocal trade program. Jep Todd, official chairman of the program, presided at the meeting. That night Secretary Mollin was a guest at the beautiful M Bar Ranch home of the Fred Hobarts.

FIELD DAY ON JORNADA RANGE

A one-day field program for southwestern stockmen is announced for October 23 on the Jornada experimental range located twenty-three miles northeast of Las Cruces, New Mexico. The program, a joint enterprise of the Forest Service, New Mexico Extension Service, New Mexico State College, and Soil Conservation Service, will afford stockmen opportunity to see and discuss results of experimental work being conducted on the Jornada range by the Southwestern Forest and Range Experiment Station of the Forest Service and on the adjoining animal husbandry ranch by the New Mexico agricultural experiment station. All stockmen are invited.

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 6—Highland Hereford Breeders Ass'n Feeder Sale, Marfa, Tex.
- 7-14—Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland, Ore.
- 11—H. H. Forney and Sons' Sale, Lakeside, Neb.
- 12—Red Deer Ranch Sale, Wood Lake, Neb.
- 13—By-The-Way Ranch Sale, Wood Lake, Neb.
- 14—Ed Belsky Sale, Merriman, Neb.
- 14-24—American Royal Live Stock Show, Kansas City.
- 22-28—Ak-Sar-Ben Live Stock Show, Omaha, Neb.
- 23—Northwest Nebraska Hereford Ass'n Sale, Valentine, Neb.
- 24-25—Central Nebraska Hereford Breeders' Ass'n Sale, Broken Bow, Neb.
- 26—Wyoming Hereford Ranch Sale, Cheyenne, Wyo.
- 29-Nov. 3—Great Western Live Stock Show, Los Angeles.

NOVEMBER

- 15-23—The National Grange Convention, Peoria, Ill.
- 21-22—"Polled Hereford Week" Show and Sale, Des Moines, Iowa.

DECEMBER

- 2-9—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago.
- 8-9—California Cattlemen's Ass'n Convention, San Francisco.

JANUARY

- 11-13—American National Live Stock Ass'n Convention, Denver.
- 13-20—National Western Stock Show, Denver.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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LARD IN THE SOAP KETTLE

IT IS CLAIMED THAT THERE IS always a silver lining to a cloud, if you can find it, and it may well be that the silver lining to the dark war clouds which are hovering over much of the world is the possibility that war demands for food products and implements of war (the former in particular, so far as we are concerned in this instance) will take care of surpluses that were beginning to create large-sized headaches in official administrative quarters.

A few weeks ago, alarmed by the 83,000,000-pig crop, wild reports were circulated that we were threatened with a 500,000,000-pound surplus of lard. Even before the bulk of the spring pig crop had started marketward, Washington was buzzing with what to do about it. A hand was taken by certain representatives of the cotton industry, who feared that low lard prices would drag cottonseed oil down to similar levels.

A suggestion was made that the AAA or some other branch of the agricultural department should subsidize soap-makers to the tune of \$15,000,000 for the purpose of diverting lard to the soap kettle. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Harry L. Brown admitted in a letter dated August 24 that such a program was definitely under consideration. Now, because of war in Europe, the alarm is over for the present at least, and a letter from Secretary Wallace to this office, under date of September 12, brings assurance that it now seems unnecessary to put into effect any further programs on fats and oils.

It is possible, however, that the war may be of short duration. Recent events reveal a chaotic condition, and it is anybody's guess what the future holds. Hence, it is well seriously to consider to what low estate the Department of Agriculture had come when it was appar-

ently willing to subsidize one branch of American agriculture—the hog producer—apparently with the acquiescence of another oil-producing group, although such a subsidy program would have reacted strongly upon another group of oil producers, mainly the cattlemen. If lard had gone into the soap kettles it would have displaced inedible tallow more than any other product. As one interested party expressed it: "If we put lard into the soap kettle, we will put tallow into the shortening." This apparently on the assurance that much edible tallow, as well as inedible, finds its way into the soap kettle for lack of better demand.

The strange thing about the whole business is that the proposed program was terribly shortsighted. It would not actually have disposed of a pound of surplus fat. It merely would have replaced one kind of surplus fat with another kind. American agriculture is not going to get very far in solving its problems if each branch of the industry takes the view that it is willing to consider its own problems solved if it can dump it into the lap of another group, even though it is similarly hard pressed.

Fats and oils have been distressingly low in price. The war, temporarily at least, will solve the problem; but, in the future, whatever steps may be necessary to maintain satisfactory price levels should be based on equity to every branch of the fats and oil industry.

The PRODUCER would suggest to the Department of Agriculture that instead of chasing around in circles, planning to help one group at the expense of the other, it might look to the tariff for the protection of all. During recent years it has remained on the side lines, refusing to take any part in aiding agriculture in agriculture's effort to prevent the whittling away of its tariffs under the reciprocal trade program and to add to the slight protection already provided on fats and oils through the medium of additional excise taxes. No better time could be found than the present to get on the right side of the tariff question and hence on the side of the great majority of agricultural producers.

VEGETABLES VERSUS MEAT

IN A RECENT ISSUE OF THE *Cody* (Wyoming) *Enterprise* appeared an editorial, entitled "Land of the Lily," pointing to the increasing numbers of cattle in the South and the millions of acres down there being opened for the raising of cattle. The editorial added that government "tinkering" with the law of supply and demand, coupled with campaigns of vegetarians against meat eating can mean only one thing: low prices for cattle. Also the clever advertising by makers of breakfast foods, manufacturers of dairy products, and growers of citrus fruits has tended to impress the American people with the idea that the eating of meat

perhaps is not good for them. The editorial advocates a fight by the stock growers to offset these inroads on their business. It said:

"Is it too much to expect the stockmen, sturdy individualists that they are, to pool sufficient funds to fight such subversive influences upon the character of our citizens? Would it be too difficult to point out that the conquering races of the world have been the meat-eaters, that the subject races have been those which mainly browse upon vegetables?"

"Would it be hard to point out that the vegetarians and other faddists are imitating the diets of yogis and other Oriental mystics? Would it be hard to awaken a fear in the hearts of men—like the terror of halitosis, body odor, and other artificially stimulated phobias—that unless they eat plenty of good, red beef, they are apt to become languid, lavender lilies?"

"In this situation there is only one thing to do: by propaganda to increase their product. And by so doing the stockmen need not fear that they are stimulating their industry by unfair means.

"If the faddists are not stopped, there is not much doubt but that America will turn into the land of the lily, inhabited by gentle mystics whose main joy is to go into a trance and contemplate their own navels."

This editorial was immediately answered by a letter from an eastern self-styled "fantastic faddist," which said:

"... Being myself a 'fantastic faddist,' I am particularly interested in seeing that those who, like myself, have turned away from the slaughter-houses for food, are beginning to be recognized as a force. The health angle in my own case is incidental, but convincing. I cannot see an animal lose its life that I might live (lily-like), and, in pursuing this sort of harmlessness, I find I have three times the endurance of my flesh-eating friends, which is not to be laughed down, and the fact that such editorials as yours appear is positive proof that 'by and large the American people are getting the idea that eating meat isn't good for them.' Some of them, like myself, have tried doing without it.

"The greatest danger that the American people have to face, to my mind, is the sacrifice of all spiritual values to the great god Profit. Not, 'How does this affect others?' but, 'How does it affect my pocketbook?'"

"Evolution will move on slowly, regardless of all reactionary forces, as it has to our actual knowledge. These great cattle grazing lands will one day be irrigated for the growth of more vegetables, which will have taken the place of the corpses of cows in our national diet.

"I know little about the effects of 'contemplating the navel' but perhaps there is something to learn there. We might learn a little about it, even try it before condemning it utterly. There is, no doubt, much we can learn yet."

Dietitians have long recommended meat as an essential part of human consumption for the building of bone, maintenance of health, and storing of energy. History shows quite conclusively that the meat-eating people have always dominated. So we can only conclude that the

eastern lady apparently draws on her "vegetarian imagination" for her statement that she has three times the endurance of her flesh-eating friends.

The *Enterprise* editor's response to his vegetarian critic is a gem. We quote it:

"Printed elsewhere in this issue, your letter of protest against my editorial 'Land of the Lily' seems to imply that people who slaughter animals to eat meat are sacrificing spiritual values.

"Did it ever occur to you that the slaughter of vegetables was also a

sacrifice of spiritual values, in as much as a vegetable, being a living thing, in some degree also partakes of the world of the spirit? Has it never wrung your heart to see a window full of suffering vegetables, not dispatched quickly and painlessly as in the case of cattle, sheep, and pigs, but allowed to linger and wilt, sprinkled by cold water, half frozen and then thawed, dying by inches before the callous eyes of the unfeeling public? Has it never wrung your heart to think how it feels to a carrot or a beet, a potato or a radish, to be yanked from the warm earth, its rootlets torn and

horribly mangled to satisfy the heartless appetite of a vegetarian?

"You may laugh in your heartless, vegetarian way, saying to yourself that a vegetable has not feeling. Did it never occur to you that every throbbing, living cell of protoplasm, making up a vegetable as well as an animal, can to some extent feel and suffer?

"We carnivores hold that feeling is merely a matter of degree, that the mimosa which contracts its folds when touched feels more than sugar beet, that a rabbit feels more than a mimosa, that cows, sheep, and pigs feel more than a rabbit, that human beings feel more than cows, sheep, and pigs.

"The difference is, therefore, one of degree, not of principle. If you adhere to the doctrine that to kill an animal is to lose sight of spiritual values, to be consistent you must also stop destroying the souls of vegetables.

"Dear madam, next time you pick from a plate a baby onion, torn from the fertile, brown loam it loved, its rootlets ripped from its bulb like limbs from an animal's body, think! Remember it is still a throbbing, living thing! Consider its feelings as your cruel jaws crush its tender tissues! Consider that infant onion, still partly living in your stomach, as the cruel acids of your gastric juices burn it to death, like a cow thrown into quicklime, struggling in mortal agony!

"No, dear madam, much as we love our live stock, we of the cattle country also have consideration for the lives of our vegetables—just ask the sensitive South-forkers about their peas! To follow your doctrine to its logical conclusion we would all have to commit suicide. That we refuse to do.

"Besides, we like the taste of good meat, raised on our Wyoming ranges."

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THE JUNIOR MOVEMENT

WITH THE INSTALLATION THIS month of a junior stockmen's department, the PRODUCER recognizes a movement long discussed in live-stock convention circles and finally definitely under way. For many years stockmen have urged that concrete steps be taken to keep the younger generation from departing for the city as soon as school days are over.

Reports of the activities of junior stockmen in Nebraska, Arizona, and Oklahoma, plus the keen advance interest in our new department, show that there is a way to do it. Make the boy or girl a live-stock owner, even though it only involves a heifer calf to begin with. It definitely ties the youngster into the picture. A city worker, who for the first time knows the thrill of "owning your home" reacts to exactly the same sentiment.

We welcome the junior stockmen. We can expect much from them: new ideas, better development of old ones. We shall not be disappointed.

F. E. MOLLIN,
Secretary.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

WASHINGTON

GOVERNMENT SEES BETTER FARM PRODUCTS DEMAND

IMPROVED DEMAND FOR FARM products during the last quarter of this year is forecast by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Basis is the expansion of industrial activity and consumer incomes in recent months, accelerated now by war conditions. Producers were cautioned, however, not to expect a "runaway" market, since supplies of practically all farm products are more than enough for current and prospective needs.

The bureau indicated that sustained improvement must depend upon actual, not speculative, increases in domestic and foreign demands. Some of the initial war upsurge in commodity prices

has abated since it has become generally realized, the bureau said, that "supplies of most raw materials are ample and unused manufacturing capacities more than sufficient to take care of any likely near-term increase in consumer demand."

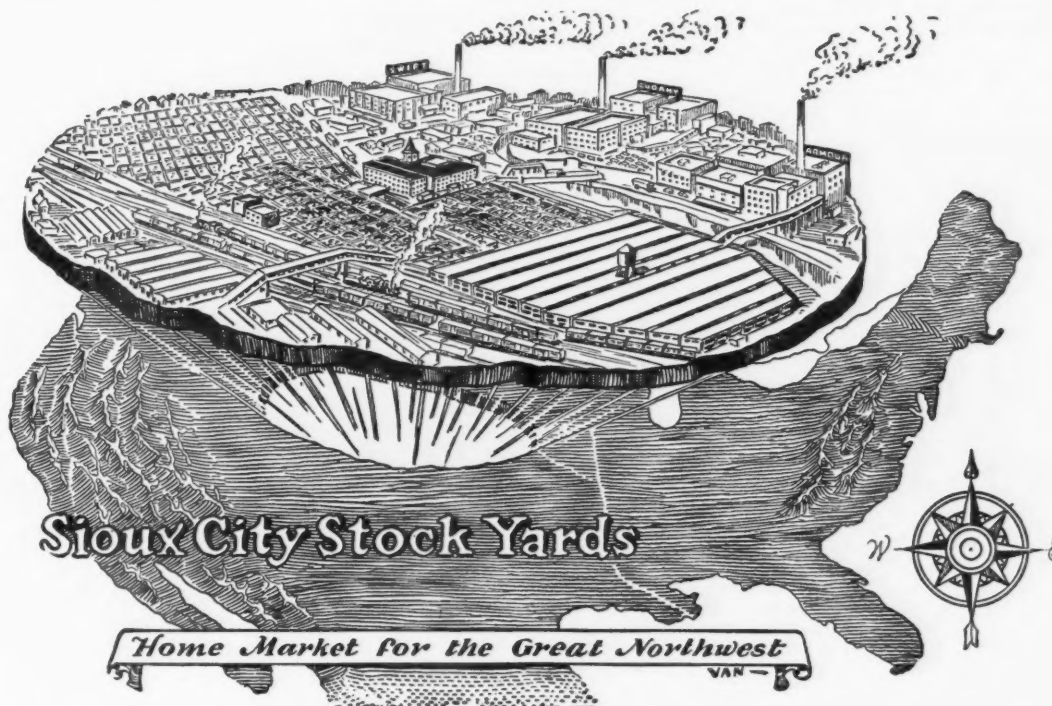
Recent gains have raised the government index of prices of farm products to the highest level in nearly a year. Nevertheless, it was reported that the index is still below the 1910-14 base period, and that because of the unfavorable relationship of prices received to prices paid for commodities used by farmers, the farm purchasing power index is 20 to 25 per cent below the 1910-14 level.

The bureau said that although some of the recent commodity price gains may

be lost as adjustments are made to actual conditions, "it seems probable that the effect of the European war will be to strengthen both domestic and export demand for farm products in general. The war," it was added, "is likely to decrease European production of some commodities and cause belligerent nations to have less regard than in peace times for the effects of imports on their financial resources or domestic economics programs."

The bureau issued a summary of the situation from which we extract the paragraphs on corn, live stock, and wool:

Corn.—Corn prices advanced about 15 cents per bushel during the first half of September and other feed grains made smaller advances. Corn supplies are much larger than needed to supply domestic requirements, so the price rise seems to reflect an expected increase in European demand for grains and livestock products. Since the indicated 1939



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supply is below the marketing quota level, no referendum on marketing quotas will be held this year. The present situation indicates a loan rate on 1939 corn of 75 per cent of parity.

Live Stock.—Prices of all live stock rose sharply during the first week of September following the outbreak of the war, with the advance much greater for hogs than for cattle and lambs. In the second week of September part of this rise was lost. A fairly large seasonal increase in hog marketings is probable for the next few months, and total supplies for the 1939-40 marketing year are expected to be much larger than in 1938-39. Marketings of grain-fed cattle probably will continue larger than a year earlier during the remainder of 1939 and in early 1940. In view of abundant supplies of feed in the Corn Belt, a strong feeder demand for cattle and lambs is probable in that area this fall. But the number of lambs fed in the western states may be smaller this year because of short feed supplies.

Wool.—Prices of wool in the United States advanced sharply in early September. Domestic mill consumption and imports of wool thus far in 1939 have been considerably greater than last year. Mill activity in foreign countries has increased considerably in recent months.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OPPOSES ARGENTINE PACT

AS THE "PRODUCER" GOES TO press, Secretary Mollin and staff are busy in preparation of brief in opposition to tariff cuts on a host of products of the live-stock industry in the proposed Argentine trade agreement. Among the major items affecting various branches of the live-stock industry are canned beef, hides, tallow, oleo oil, certain of the coarser grades of wool, and cheese.

In view of the fact that the cattle products listed for tariff reduction include almost all the component parts of a steer, both edible and inedible (except dressed beef, excluded by our sanitary embargo), the association's opposition is necessarily based on matters of broad national policy. It would be futile to argue on the basis of individual issues as to whether more or less blood, bones, etc., should be admitted.

Following the filing of briefs (closing date, October 4), oral argument will be held in Washington beginning October 16, at which time Secretary Mollin will represent the association.

SECRETARY WALLACE URGES FARMERS HOLD TO AAA PLAN

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE Henry A. Wallace at the outbreak of the war in Europe urged American farmers to proceed with their production plans as if no outbreak had occurred. American agriculture, he said, is in a much better position to meet the

shock of war than it was twenty-five years ago. "The very machinery which farmers have used to adjust production to decreased demand in peace time can be used in war time to increase production if and when that becomes advisable.

"There is little likelihood that any substantial increase in production of the major crops will be desirable, certainly not in the near future. In any case, the need for increase in supplies can be anticipated in ample time to make any necessary increase in acreage."

This year's wheat carryover is estimated at 254,000,000 bushels, in comparison with 115,000,000 bushels average for the five years from 1924 to 1928. The present large carryover of corn, he said, will probably make the total of 1939-40 supply even larger than the 1938-39 supply.

"Supplies of meat animals are expected to be larger next year than for this year, and continued heavy production of milk this fall is expected. Combined supplies of cottonseed oil, lard, and soybean oil available for home consumption will be larger during the rest of this year and 1940 than for 1938.

"The ever-normal granary and the stabilization of supplies of meat, milk, and eggs which it makes possible serve also as a protection to the consumers against exorbitantly high prices."

The secretary has formed an advisory agricultural council in an effort to keep farm prices on an even keel and to prevent dislocation in the department's crop control program as a result of the war.

Backing up the secretary was Edward A. O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, who told farmers recently to beware of economic repercussions if they embarked on a program of war time agricultural expansion. "I don't see how farmers figure it would be to their advantage to take the acreage lid off," Mr. O'Neal said, "but if they do they will have to pay the bill. With the huge surpluses of commodities that are available it might prove disastrous. Lots of us have not forgotten the World War and its aftermath—and, more recently, 1933."

Robert H. Cabell, retiring president of Armour and Company, speaking on the war situation said there was no reason to expect a sudden boom in meat products. "The new European war," he said, "does not, in our (Armour) opinion, encompass a threat either to the adequacy of the meat supply in this country or to the price situation."

He said the meat supply in the United States was adequate and that there was little reason to expect any immediate and substantial foreign demand, as reports indicated Europe's food supplies were sufficient for immediate needs.

President Roosevelt announced that he had ordered temporary lifting of marketing restrictions on sugar. He said this suspension was necessitated by increased world demand as a result of the

war, extraordinary purchases by consumers, and the "apparent" speculative activity in sugar market. He said that the quotas may be reinstated "if such a step becomes necessary for the welfare of sugar producers."

WASHINGTON NOTES

ORDER ESTABLISHING A NEW grazing district—"New Mexico Grazing District No. 7"—has been issued by the Secretary of the Interior. The order embraces an area of approximately 3,500,000 acres of land adjacent to the Navajo Indian Reservation. Special regulations for the administration of the new New Mexico grazing district will provide, among other things, for the creation of a range conservation committee which will act in an advisory capacity with the regional grazier of the grazing service in working out range problems. Reports submitted to Secretary Ickes indicate that the area is overstocked and that, as a result, the stockmen, including the white landowners, have agreed that use of the land be regulated.

TENANTS BUY 6,000 FARMS

During the first two years under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, the Farm Security Administration has made 6,181 loans to tenants for the purchase of farms. The loans aggregated \$33,339,684, or an average of \$5,394 per farmer. Farms acquired by the borrowers averaged 134 acres each. During the second year of the program, ending last June 30, the loans ran a little higher, the farms were somewhat bigger, and more improvements were made than during the first year. The Bankhead-Jones law is an effort to slow down the increase in farm tenancy, which had jumped from 20 per cent of the farmers fifty years ago to 42 per cent in 1935. The program called for \$10,000,000 the first year, \$25,000,000 the second, and \$40,000,000 for the current fiscal year. Seven thousand loans are expected to be made this year.

CORN INSURANCE PLAN SCRAPPED

The AAA has announced abandonment of its plan for government insurance of corn resealed on the farm under its grain loan program, in favor of the present system of commercial underwriting. The AAA said that the deposit for insurance in connection with corn resealed from the 1937 and 1938 crops would not be required, and that farmers storing their corn in local elevators need not pay insurance charges. In exchange for the scrapping of its plan to supersede private insurance, the AAA was promised a premium rate reduction from 75 to 40 cents a \$100 valuation on corn under government loan. Prior to the first government loan program, the insurance rate on farm-stored corn was \$1.50 a \$100, the AAA noted.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

TRAFFIC

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

BY CHAS. E. BLAINE

EXAMINERS CHESTER E. STILES and David T. Copenhafer, in proposed report in *Docket 17000 Part 9—Live Stock—Western District Rates*, which embraces *I. & S. Docket No. 4541, Live Stock, West to Central and Southern States*, recommended that the commission find:

"1. Upon further hearing, cancellation of local and proportional rates on stocker and feeder live stock within the western district prescribed in 176 I.C.C. 1 as modified in 190 I.C.C. 611, found by reason of changed conditions to be justified, and transit rules approved under which refund to the 85 per cent basis of rates may be secured. Any existing undue prejudice of certain public live-stock markets and undue preference of country markets will be removed by the proposed schedules.

"2. Cancellation of transit arrangements under which western lines make refunds out of western rates on account of transit on eastern and southern lines found justified, modifying 225, I.C.C. 649."

Upon request of the protestants—

certain state commissions and the live-stock organizations—the commission extended time for filing exceptions to the report. Protestants intend to file exceptions.

The former proceeding was reopened by the commission for further hearing in all respects as it relates to the application of the 85 per cent basis of rates on edible live stock on the petition of the railroads filed with the commission April 23, 1938, wherein the railroads sought reconsideration and modification of the prior reports and orders of the commission dated June 8, 1931, and January 10, 1933, to correct abuses which they asserted had grown up and threatened to increase under the present adjustment of rates on stocker and feeder live stock. In their petition the railroads requested authority to establish certain rules and regulations governing the 85 per cent rates on stockers and feeders. On the last day of the last hearing in Chicago, in December, 1938, the railroads modified their proposed rules and regulations to read as follows:

"Section 1.—When ordinary live stock, viz., cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, or goats, as described in paragraph — of Item —, on which rail transportation charges have been paid to the first destination

is subsequently reshipped by rail to another destination beyond the switching limits of the first destination or reloading station as authorized in Section 6 at the applicable line haul rate thereon from the first destination or reloading station, the charges on the shipment into the first destination will be readjusted to the basis of rates set forth in Item 2, subject to the conditions and provisions of Sections 2 to 11, inclusive, of this item.

"Readjustment as provided in this section will apply on shipments which move directly from origin to first destination or shipments stopped en route under transit privileges authorized in carrier's tariffs, except as provided in Section 5.

"No readjustment will be made in charges of any character assessed against the shipment in addition to the line haul rate applicable to direct movement from point of origin to the first destination.

"Section 2.—The shipment to the second destination must be made within eighteen months, but not less than fifteen days, from the date of the freight bill covering the shipment to the first destination.

"Section 3.—The readjustment will be made upon presentation of claim supported by the original paid freight bill covering the shipment to the first destination, a copy of the live-stock contract showing evidence of reshipment by rail from the first to the second destination

STALEY'S SOYBEAN OIL MEAL PELLETS

FOUR Great PELLETS

A FEW years ago Staley's put on the market the now famous "Staley's Cattle Pellets" and "Staley's Sheep Pellets." These two pellets were made on the demand of the western rancher who wanted to secure Staley's Soybean Oil Meal in a form that could be fed on the ground, out on the range, in all kinds of weather.

What the West Ordered

After visiting many ranches and experiment stations to determine exactly what they wanted, Staley's installed and perfected equipment to produce such a product. The excellent results that hundreds of cattle- and sheepmen have obtained through feeding these two pellets have proved conclusively that these men knew what they wanted and that Staley's could give it to them.



Pellet	Diameter	Length	Type	Use
No. 1	7/8 in.	1 1/2 in.	Mineralized	Range
No. 2	5/8 in.	7/8 in.	Mineralized	Range
No. 3	3/16 in.	1/4 in.	Mineralized	Feed-lot
No. 4	3/16 in.	1/4 in.	No Minerals	Feed-lot

The Staley Customer NEVER GUESSES—He Knows!
A. E. STALEY MANUFACTURING COMPANY
 DECATUR (FEED DIVISION) ILLINOIS

and inspection as provided in Section 10 of this item.

"Claims under the provisions of this item must be filed within six months from the date of delivery at second destination, and all readjustments pursuant to this section will be subject to verification and approval by the Western Weighing and Inspection Bureau.

"Section 4.—Freight bills covering live stock for dairy uses or covering live stock which has been slaughtered or sold for slaughter at the first destination or which has been slaughtered at any other point within thirty days after arrival at first destination will not be valid for readjustment of charges under the provisions of this item. Live stock for dairy uses consists of (1) Mature milch cows and milch goats kept for the milk which they give or are capable of giving; (2) Immature female cattle and goats kept by dairies and dairy breeders to replace old cows and goats; (3) Mature males used by breeders of milch cows and milch goats; (4) Immature males used to replace old males in the breeding of milch cows and milch goats.

"Section 5.—Paid freight bills covering shipments which have been accorded feeding, fattening, or grazing in transit privileges between point of origin and the first destination (for which a transit charge has been made) will not be valid for readjustment of charges under the provisions of this item.

"Section 6.—The shipment from the first destination to the second destination must be reloaded at the same station at which the shipment to the first destination was unloaded or at any station on any railroad within fifty miles

(air-line) of the first destination. (Note: Exceptions to this rule to be provided when special situations require a greater distance to be permitted between first destination and the reloading station.)

"Section 7.—Readjustment and amount of refund under the provisions of this item will be computed on the basis of the weight on which the charges were assessed as shown on the paid freight bill on which readjustment is made, but not to exceed the weight on the live stock included in the reshipment on which freight charges have been paid.

"Readjustment as to weights will be subject to present minimum weights applicable on feeder and stocker live stock published in accordance with the decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission in *Docket 17000, Part 9*. The present published minimum weights applicable in the various rate territories under the decision referred to are to be included in this section.

"Section 8.—Refund will be made only when the live stock reshipped is of the same species as the live stock contained in the inbound shipment, except that, when the shipment to the first destination consists of calves, the shipment to the second destination may consist of calves or cattle.

"Section 9.—The shipment from the first destination must be made by the consignee of the inbound shipment, except that, when the live stock represented by the inbound freight bill has been sold at the first destination, reshipment may be made by the purchaser, in which event the claim must be accompanied by a copy of the bill of sale transferring the live stock to the con-

signor of the shipment from the first destination or reloading station as provided in Section 6.

"Section 10.—At public live-stock markets, public stockyards, live-stock auction sales, commercial feed yards, railroad feed yards or other locations where live-stock sale facilities are maintained, as named in Item —, refund will be authorized on live stock handled through such facilities only when records are maintained which will permit satisfactory check by the Western Weighing and Inspection Bureau whereby it can be determined that there has been no substitution of live stock not entitled to refund under the provisions of this item.

"Claimants coming within the description provided in this section will be required to maintain records indicating disposition of live stock. Records to be maintained in such manner as to preclude the presentation of freight bills for readjustment on live stock for dairy uses, slaughtered or otherwise disposed of, in such manner that readjustment authorized in this item is not applicable.

"Section 11.—The term 'first destination' as used in this item means the destination of the shipment covered by the freight bill on which readjustment of charges is made, regardless of whether or not there has been a previous rail movement of the same live stock.

"The term 'second destination' as used in this item means the destination of the reshipment from the first destination.

"Note to Publishing Agents.—In tariffs applying to stations not under the jurisdiction of the Western Weighing

Northwest Nebraska Hereford Association

10,000 Purebred Herefords Within Our Border—42 Members

Clean reliable seed stock at living prices for sale at all times in any numbers. Choice herd bull material.

The Sand Hills Reign Supreme in Producing the "Beef Breed Supreme."

For the best in Herefords plan to attend these members' sales:

Oct. 11—H. H. Forney & Sons, Lakeside, Neb.

Oct. 12—Red Deer Ranch, Wood Lake, Neb.

Oct. 13—By-the-Way Ranch, Wood Lake, Neb.

Oct. 14—Ed Belsky, Merriman, Neb.

Oct. 23—Association sale, Valentine, Neb.

D. W. Sumner, President

Ed. Belsky, Secretary, Merriman, Neb.

H. J. Harms, Vice-President

and Inspection Bureau appropriate change should be made in this item in lieu of the reference to the Western Weighing and Inspection Bureau.

"Item No. 2—Where rate on 'ordinary live stock,' viz: cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, or goats, as described in paragraph 1 of Item 50, is as specified in Column A, the readjustment authorized in Item 1 will be on the basis of the rate specified in Column B opposite the rate specified in Column A.

"When the rate on the 'ordinary live stock' includes a fraction of a cent, the next higher rate in Column A shall be used in the application of this item.

"Column A contains rates from 12 to 191 cents, in the exhibit, and Column B contains rates which are 85 per cent of those in Column A, except that fractions have been disposed of by disregarding amounts under 0.5 cent. and converting 0.5 cent or more to the next full cent."

The examiners recommend that the first sentence of Section 4, above shown, be changed to read in substance as follows:

"Freight bills covering live stock for dairy uses or covering live stock which has been slaughtered at any point within thirty days after arrival at first destination will not be valid for readjustment of freight charges under the provisions of this item."

Moreover, the examiners suggested that Section 8 be changed to read substantially as follows:

"Refund will be made only when the live stock reshipped is of the same species as the live stock comprising the inbound shipment. When the shipment to the first destination consists either of calves, lambs, kids, or pigs, the shipment to the second destination may consist of adult animals of that species."

Furthermore, the examiners approved the addition to Section 8 of the following paragraph, which was orally suggested by the railroads:

"These rules do not preclude the inclusion, in outbound cars, of live stock born on the farms or ranches from which reshipment is made, and weight of such animals may be considered in computation of outbound weight as referred to in Section 7."

In addition, the examiners suggested that the last sentence of Section 10 be amended to read as follows:

"Records are to be maintained in such manner that the disposition of the live stock covered by the freight bill presented for readjustment, and the right of claimant to refund, can be clearly determined therefrom."

It will be noted that Section 7 provides, in substance, that the readjustment will be subject to the *present* minimum weights applicable on feeder and stocker live stock when there is a reshipment by rail and the remaining sections of the proposed rules have been complied with. Thereunder the freight charges on stocker and feeder live stock would be based initially on the minima applying on fat animals, and, if readjustment of the charges is eventually made, they will be based upon the pres-

ent lower minimum weights on stocker and feeder animals. With respect thereto, the examiners state:

"The conclusion is inescapable that such request must be denied. If respondents wish to treat live stock, so far as concerns the application of initial charges, which may prove to be the ultimate charges, as a single commodity, they must apply on that commodity a minimum weight to which the commodity is capable of being loaded. The minima which have been found reasonable for stocker and feeder live stock must then necessarily become the minima on all ordinary live stock."

The examiners in their report set forth certain alleged changes that have taken place since the decision of the commission on the first reopening, in 1933 in "(1) the train service rendered on stocker and feeder shipments not destined to public live-stock markets, (2) the utilization of cars which would otherwise move from markets back into the country empty, (3) the rail tonnage out of feed-lots compared with the tonnage in, and (4) the extent to which respondents receive further hauls of ani-

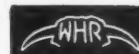
mals transported at the 85 per cent rates. While a definite percentage of the latter cannot be stated, we think the record makes clear that it is extremely doubtful if respondents now receive a further haul of 50 per cent of the animals initially transported at the 85 per cent rates."

Thereafter the examiners conclude:

"These changes, all adverse to respondents, fully justify, and in fairness require, either an increase in the percentage relation of rates on stockers and feeders to the rates on slaughter animals, or a change in the conditions upon which the 85 per cent basis of rates shall continue to be applied. As the reopening was not broad enough to embrace the former, the latter is the only course open upon this record."

Based upon the alleged change in conditions, the examiners concluded that the proposed rules, revised in the particulars indicated in the report, are practical and appropriate to the purpose for which they are intended, are reasonable, and are not unduly prejudicial or preferential or otherwise in violation of the Interstate Commerce Act, and recom-

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WHR Annual Sale Thurs., Oct. 26

Including some extra good bulls suitable for top range herds
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mend their approval by the commission.

Respecting the alleged abuses charged by the railroads, and one of the principal reasons for the reopening of the proceeding, the examiners stated:

"Abuses of the 85 per cent rate do not afford justification for the proposed tariff provisions. It definitely appears that respondents have not exhausted the methods within their grasp for the mitigation of these abuses."

The examiners sustained the contentions of the public markets of Denver, Colorado; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Kansas City, Kansas and Missouri; St. Joseph, Missouri; Omaha, Nebraska; Sioux City, Iowa; St. Paul, Minnesota; Fargo, North Dakota; and East St. Louis, Illinois, that the application of the 100 per cent rates on stocker and feeder live stock shipped to or through said markets is unduly prejudicial to them when compared with the 85 per cent rates applicable on shipments to or through other than market points. However, the examiners further found that the establishment of the proposed rules and regulations would remove any existing undue prejudice of said public mar-

kets and undue preference of the country points.

The final summary and conclusions of the examiners are as follows:

"We have hereinabove shown the changes which have taken place since the 85 per cent rates were prescribed which justify a change in the conditions upon which application of those rates may reasonably be required. We have found that the proposed rules, revised in the particulars indicated in this report, are practical of application and are reasonable and not unduly prejudicial under the circumstances and conditions now existing in the western district. In our opinion, respondents should be permitted to apply those rules, experimentally at least, and observe their effect. It is doubtful if their effect will be as fully satisfactory as respondents anticipated, either to themselves or to shippers. Every added burden on the live-stock industry has its effect in encouraging an increase in the volume of live stock transported by trucks. The reshipment of live stock by rail is often prevented by inadequate rail service. One illustration will suffice: One witness feeds cattle approximately fifty miles from Omaha. The rail rate on fat

cattle from his station to Omaha is eighteen cents, and the train service would necessitate loading at 10 A. M. to reach the market for the following morning. The truck rate is fifteen cents, and the cattle are delivered on the market within two and a half to three hours from the time of loading. This shipper asserts that shrinkage in the animals due to the time required for rail transportation would more than offset any refund through the proposed transit, to say nothing of the three cents higher rail rate. (23935-6.) The application on all live stock of the lower minimum weights heretofore found reasonable on stocker and feeder live stock will necessarily have a depressing effect upon respondents' revenues on fat live stock. There is no basis upon which the extent of the effect of these things can now be calculated.

"The dual basis of rates on live stock creates situations which, although on past records found to be not unduly prejudicial or unreasonable, cause friction between shippers and carriers; it also presents, as the commission has recognized, policing problems and other difficulties. These, in our opinion, will not be wholly removed by the proposed transit arrangements, which in effect will continue a dual rate system. Respondents on this record refer to the fact that they have long sought to obtain a single rate basis, and several of their witnesses expressed the view that only by the adoption of a single rate system will the difficulties, problems, and frictions arising out of the present rate adjustment be entirely removed. Conditions at the time the former hearings were held, as developed on those records, did not, in the commission's judgment, justify the abolition of the dual rate system. A single rate system at a level intermediate between the two present rate levels and designed to produce in the aggregate, as the present dual rate system was designed to produce, revenues under which live stock will bear its fair share of the transportation burden would involve moderate increases in the rates on stocker and feeder animals and moderate reductions in the rate on fat animals and would effect equality of treatment as between the two branches of the industry. It is also quite probable that it would mean no greater increased revenues in the aggregate on the total volume of stocker and feeder traffic than will the proposals herein approved, under which refund to the lower rate basis will never be made on many shipments. However, the determination of the desirability of such a rate basis is beyond the issues of this proceeding as reopened.

"Under the issues of this reopened proceeding and upon consideration of the entire record, we recommend that the commission modify its orders of June 8, 1931, and January 10, 1933, so as to permit respondents to cancel from their tariffs all reference to stocker and feeder live stock provided that they contemporaneously make applicable the rates, rules, and regulations approved in this report."

More than 10,000,000 trains are operated annually over the nation's rails.

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Domino-Beau Mischief **HEREFORD BULLS**

J. M. CAREY & BROTHER

CHEYENNE

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Haley-Smith Cattle Company

Sterling, Colorado

Registered Hereford cows and heifers of all ages
We always have bulls

REGISTERED **HEREFORD CATTLE**

Choicest blood-lines; outstanding individuals; raised under actual range conditions

T. E. MITCHELL & SON

Tequesquite Ranch
ALBERT, NEW MEXICO

Around 2500 lambs are shipped to market yearly by George Wilbur, in addition to a large, high-quality wool clip. The Suffolk lambs shown here average 85 pounds. Mr. Wilbur has kept the same strain for 35 years, steadily improving his stock

GEORGE H. WILBUR
Mesa, Arizona

*Good
man for
Safeway
Farm
Reporter
interview*

Widely-known Salt River Valley sheep rancher. President of Arizona Wool Growers Association past 2 years, a director 15 years. Association's 200 members represent majority of million-head Arizona sheep industry. Wilbur also vice-president and director of Arizona Livestock Production Credit Association. Has reputation among fellow ranchers and lamb and wool buyers for quality production. Remembers Arizona country as frontier territory, 25 years before Arizona admitted to Union. Fellow ranchers say George Wilbur is ideal man to see for Arizona sheep story. Should interest producers of all kinds of farm products in all sections.

Says GEORGE WILBUR—

Sheep men profit by year-round selling support

Tender, juicy young lamb can now be on the family table every month of the year—nobody has to wait for a special season to enjoy it! George Wilbur made that plain to me.

"Right from here in Arizona we're now moving good, young lamb to market in an all-year stream," he told me. "Sheep ranchers in other states are doing the same thing. But it doesn't do us much good to get our lamb to market if the public doesn't know it's there. We need plenty of marketing help to make people realize that lamb is a year-round item nowadays.

"There's no question we get important help on this from Safeway and other distributors. I keep an eye out for advertising about what I raise and

I notice Safeway runs regular, year-round advertising on lamb. That benefits sheep ranchers by stepping up lamb consumption, steadying prices.

"Another example of fine cooperation we're getting are those 'eat more meat' campaigns. In these big, nationwide drives everybody works together. By everybody I mean Safeway and other members of the National Association of Food Chains, independent retailers, packers, and the National Livestock and Meat Board.

"I know for a fact that these drives, by firming up prices, have put money in the pockets of producers. Credit is due Safeway and other distributors for doing this grand selling job on lamb."

—THE SAFEWAY FARM REPORTER



MARKETS

ALL PRICES JUMP AS PANDEMONIUM HITS

BY JAMES E. POOLE

PANDEMONIUM BORDERING ON delirium invaded every phase of live-stock trade early in September, coincident with the outbreak of war in Europe, but not for that reason, except remotely or psychologically. Prices jumped \$2 to



\$2.50 per cwt. each of the three species participating. Undoubtedly war news engendered rampant bullish sentiment, encouraged by current price events, but processors had to go to the same people to sell their product, as thirty days previously when every branch of the trade wallowed in the slough of despondency. On the rebound, prices went skyward. Ten-dollar steers at the low point soared to \$12, cheaper grades showing even more gain. The maximum advance was in the hog market, as that trade had been relatively low, top hogs reaching \$10 at several eastern markets. Lambs worth around \$8 at the bottom of the August break reached \$10.50 at the crest of the rise. Stock-cattle prices were boosted 75 cents to \$1 per cwt., reaching the highest level of the season. From the summit the decline was precipitous, but half way down the slope to the pre-boom levels a halt was called, healthy reactions developing, but the boom was definitely off.

Explanation of the flurry is simple. Evidence that liquidation of the crop of overweight bullocks that deluged the July and early August market had run its course accumulated at mid-August. At that stage the visible supply of long-feds was concentrated in Iowa and Illinois. Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania were practically through; eastern killers were under the necessity of filing orders at Chicago, and at a critical moment feeders practically suspended loading, under a conviction that the price trend was upward. In other words, the visible supply was in stronger, if not actually in strong, hands. Eastern beef trade, previously in comatose condition, revived overnight, Canada was through, and a procession of Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado fed steers dried up at the supply source. Fed cattle ran out at Missouri River markets and the seasonal grist of short-feds did not materialize. Ten-dollar cattle at Chicago, rarities previously, went to \$10.50; killers had access to few fed steers under \$9; and the stage was set for a new deal when without

warning fortuitous circumstances invaded the market with sensational results. Search live-stock market annals as far back as records exist and nothing similar can be found.

Cooler Stocks Reduced

During the last week of August feeders put beef distribution on a starvation basis, cooler stocks were reduced to low ebb, and both wholesalers and retailers clamored in chorus for increased supplies. Two weeks of short slaughter late in August demonstrated how close distributive trade had been and usually is with respect to fresh meat supplies. Suspend slaughter for even a few days and acute scarcity ensues. A short kill the last week of August was followed by the labor holiday, with practically no beef available anywhere. On Tuesday a scramble to replenish empty beef-rails developed. That week furnished a scanty supply. New York and other eastern markets kept the wires hot; packers had difficulty in filling contracts and caring for the needs of regular customers; every retailer attempted to fill his ice box by doubling and trebling orders, necessitating rationing. As supply swelled, prices cracked. Following a nose dive on Monday, September 11, recovery set in, sales early on Wednesday showing 50- to 60-cent gains. Weakness again developed, although a long string of \$10 to \$11.60 sales were recorded and the crop was cleaned up. Meanwhile eastern grassers were cut loose prematurely, and scarcity was relieved, although a serious crimp was put in current beef consumption, the public switching to cheaper competitive foods.

Late summer cattle supply has carried only a modicum of grass beef, a paucity of heifers, and a medium showing of cows. So scarce are heifers that killers have switched to light steers. Heifers at \$10 to \$11.25 are less desirable from a beef-rail standpoint than steers selling at a parity or even a few points higher. The result has been a strong play on yearlings selling anywhere from \$9.50 to close to the top, or \$10 to \$11, for the bulk. Steers and heifers in mixed loads, in comparable condition, go over the scales at the same price. Usually September attracts a raft of warmed-up light steers to the shambles, but this year few have reported. In fact, weekly garnering of steers in the \$8 to \$8.75 range has been the most meager in trade history at this period when usually western grassers and short-feds are in keen competition, the former getting preference. Little southwestern grassers have earned \$6.50 to \$7.25; northwestern grass steers, \$8.50 to \$9.50 and even higher. Purveyors of the cheaper grades of beef have been unable to satisfy their trade, switching customers to pork.

Cow beef is also scarce. Freezer boxes

over the hinterland absorb a heavy poundage, dairy herds have been closely culled, and once derided canner and cutter cows are worth anywhere from \$4.75 to \$6 per cwt. Sausage makers grab dairy bulls at \$6.75 to \$7.50, and the veal market is higher than the proverbial cat's back—\$10 to \$12 per cwt., or better than steer prices.

Flurry in Hogs

A corresponding advance in hog prices during the flurry may be partly attributable to war influence, although part of the froth was blown off subsequently as in the case of cattle. Having reduced stocks of lard and meats between domestic consumption and recent heavy exports to Europe and elsewhere, packers are in a mood to reinstate inventories, confident that such accumulation will be profitable even with an increase of possibly 15 per cent in slaughter. At \$7.75 to \$8.25 hogs are considered worth the money. Weight, recently neglected, has gone to a premium, 260- to 275-pound butchers topping the market, which is regarded as a bid to growers for a supply of heavy hogs during the winter, as the summer sow run is over. Sows led the advance, killers making no difference between grass widows and barrows of the same weight in comparable condition. The country is now conserving productive females and will swell breeding herds by holding gilts of the 1939 crop. War continuance will insure a broad demand for pork.

Mutton Prices Down

Live mutton trade went into a huddle at the lowest prices of the season at mid-August, \$8 taking the pick of the crop. At that stage killers were talking \$7.50 in September, which usually develops the low spot of the season for rangers. Overnight the market got away from them, and before they could awake from their trance they were paying \$10 to \$10.50, from which the market broke \$1 per cwt. in a few days, or the moment scarcity in eastern coolers could be relieved. Supply conditions paralleled beef trade. Not only did killers scramble for fat lambs, but they actually bought tail ends of western bands in merely good feeder flesh. Fed Texas yearlings went to \$6.50 to \$7.25; fat ewes, to \$3.50 to \$4 per cwt.

At this writing every branch of the market is endeavoring to find a substantial trading level. Runaway markets invariably become uneven. On the rises, all sense of intrinsic value is lost; on the breaks, chaos develops. When the country jockeys with supply, bewilderment intensifies. For what happened late in August and early September the country was solely responsible.

FEEDERS AND PROSPECTS

SCARCITY OF REPLACEMENT cattle may not exist or impend, but the purchasing rabble congregating constantly whenever a few stockers or feeders are available for barter indicates

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

the reverse. A significant fact is that when the fat-cattle market broke in September replacement cost actually advanced, suggesting not only actual but potential demand.

The season's investment developed several innovations. Cheap corn and a demoralized market for heavy long-fed steers was responsible for a high-tide demand for calves and light yearlings, and the less heft they toted over the scales, the keener was the competition for possession. Then came a sharp advance in gain cost, incidental to the rise in corn, the pasture season waned, preventing cheap growth on grass, and a September drought necessitated cutting corn prematurely, whereupon country demand switched overnight for fleshy yearlings and two-year-olds, the latter up to 1,000 pounds or more. On the second Monday in September, beef-makers at Kansas City took in excess of 5,000 head of steers exceeding 1,000 pounds, clamoring for more at prices \$1 higher than previously. At Omaha, Sioux City, and St. Paul the same trend developed. Feeders got few weighty steers at Chicago, scarcity and killer demand for any critter capable of hanging up a decent carcass diverting that type to the abattoir.

The purpose of this change in buying policy is turning cattle over to killers following short feeds in the dry-lot. Symptoms that the old crop of long-fed steers is running out are extant, as for several months few went on corn. Pastures have disappeared under intense September heat and lack of rain, and new corn is ready to fill bunkers. Green cattle never make as rapid gains as on this diet, and, with substitutes, can be fitted for the beef-rail in three to four months.

A train of yearlings and two-year-olds from Parkman, Wyoming, reached Chicago the second week in September. Arrival had been heralded by radio, and a mob of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio beef-makers assembled to give it an exhibition of the glad hand. Within a few hours the entire package disappeared at prices ranging from \$9.50 to \$10.50 per cwt., choice packages realizing \$10.75 and \$11. The figures indicate quality, but other less desirable types got similar action in a range of \$7.50 to \$9.25 per cwt. Prices attracted a raft of reds and roans selling in the lower price bracket, most of them remnants of a vanished host all but obliterated by drought and dairy competition.

Feeders Made Money

Feeders who bought earlier in the season have bagged a barrel of money, as they had the benefit of cheap gains on lush pastures that went bare when the late summer drought set in. The longer a feeder waited this year, the more money he paid. Many have not bagged a single steer and are still waiting for the fall and early winter bargain sale that has been regular occur-

rence in recent years. Many will not replace at current prices, having an idea that they can crib corn, holding it for higher prices profitably.

On a recent jaunt of some 4,000 miles through the best winter cattle feeding sections of Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana, the writer was impressed with the fact that, other than calves and light yearlings, replacement is deficient and the great bulk of the underweights have been on grass; a large percentage cannot be figured in the winter beef supply, owners audible intention being to rough them thriftily to go on grass in spring in anticipation of replacement scarcity at that juncture. Even should corn go to a dollar, this operation will be profitable, as three pounds of corn, with roughage during the winter, and a light corn ration on pasture next summer, insures minimum cost.

Bankers are somewhat concerned over advancing cost of fleshy steers and are curtailing credits; in other words, refusing to loan the purchase prices. But

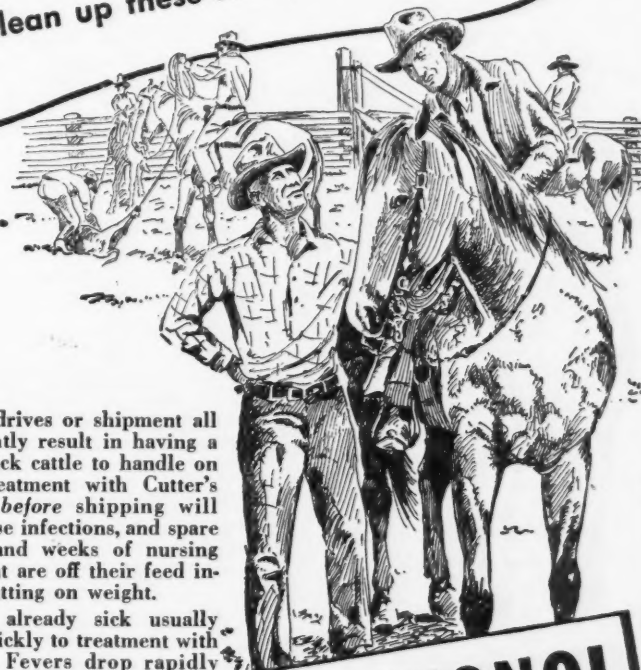
money is plentiful all through the Corn Belt, otherwise railroads would not be delivering new agricultural machinery by the trainload and the display of new automobiles on every county seat courthouse square would be impossible. Politicians engaged in rabble rousing by parading agricultural indigency—purely a vote-getting effort—are discredited by these indications of opulence.

The swindling slot machine operates on full schedule, county, street, and other fairs are thronged with a well-dressed, money-spending proletariat, and an interior banker not anxious for "good" loans is a novelty. Naturally the aforesaid banker is not handing out coin to Tom, Dick, and Harry of the ilk type. They had their inning before the depression.

Money To Be Had

Anyhow, a man with credit, who is considered a desirable moral risk can get enough money to buy a load of steers, and thousands are embracing the

"I'll get some Cutter's Pulmonol—
and clean up these snotty noses in a hurry!"



Long drives or shipment all too frequently result in having a bunch of sick cattle to handle on arrival. Treatment with Cutter's Pulmonol before shipping will prevent these infections, and spare you days and weeks of nursing animals that are off their feed instead of putting on weight.

Animals already sick usually respond quickly to treatment with Pulmonol. Fevers drop rapidly and the snotty nose condition readily cleans up.

Pulmonol is more effective than ordinary vaccines because it is not only extra potent to start, but in addition—like Blacklegol—Pulmonol is chemically precipitated so that the immunizing substances are slowly released after injection. The animal's immunity mechanism therefore works on the entire dose rather than immediately eliminating a large part of the dose which frequently occurs with non-precipitated vaccines.

Use Pulmonol! Available in 10 and 50 full 5 c.c. dose packages.

PULMONOL
CUTTER LABORATORIES, Berkeley, Calif.

● If you prefer straight Hemorrhagic Septicemia vaccine—use Cutter's Hemseptol. Like Pulmonol, a chemically precipitated vaccine—hence more effective.

opportunity. Regular feeders sat back on the side lines while this business flourished. Nobody has yet lost a dollar on stockers acquired this season, and probably will not; most of them can be turned over right now at a profit. What the finality will be must be left to winter developments, but confidence in the immediate future is supreme, accentuated by recent events in the fat-cattle branch.

Divining feeders' intentions is a futile task. However, the great bulk of such steers as can be developed into decent carcass prospects this side of next May will go to the butcher the moment a profitable turnover is possible. Feeders have their optics riveted on what happened this year, when those who cut loose on short feeds made most of the money on the crop.

Canadian stockers advanced 75 cents to \$1 per cwt. concurrent with the domestic bulge. A Chicago man who camped at the Edmonton, Alberta, stockyards throughout August bagged 1,400 fleshy feeders for Corn Belt customers, average weight 810 pounds, that paid the 1½-cent duty. The largest bunch he secured was 14 head, some of his steers coming from way up north in the Peace River Valley, a new cattle growing section. Part of this purchase is now grazing in central Indiana, grass jointly tenanted by two-year-old steers born slightly below the Arctic Circle, as mileage goes, and calves from the Mississippi Delta, where beef production is in process of promotion by railroads and federal agencies, the latter boasting of success in curtailing sugar and corn acreage by developing a grass program, paving the way for live-stock production on a quality basis and volume scale.

Holding Calves and Yearlings

A hunch that the Corn Belt will renew clamor for stock cattle when grass rises next spring is prompting at least some commercial breeders to put calves and yearlings under lock and key. Sections ravaged by drought have no alternative but to load, especially as current prices furnish incentive to take a short route to the money. One reasonable prediction is that the Corn Belt will be in the market for replacement cattle all winter, as, if current purchases can be cashed profitably, immediate replacement will follow. And there is sound reason for assuming that short-term feeding will be profitable, as killers are not tucking grass beef away this fall and will be on a hand-to-mouth basis right along. Even now a single week of light kill discloses their needs. Feeders, however, must be content with narrower margins in addition to enhancement of gain cost.

Feeding lambs have followed the upturn in stock cattle. At Chicago \$9 to \$9.25 has been paid recently for thin westerns—an advance of \$1 per cwt. or more. At western markets cost is correspondingly high. Killers have proc-

essed a raft of fair-fleshed lambs, too heavy to suit feeders' ideas, and illusions of an excessive winter-fed lamb supply have been discarded. Colorado and western Nebraska will make a light winter feed; east of Indiana few lambs have gone in, as the Ohio bunch stood pat for 7½ to 8 cents, delivered, and got few; none on that basis. Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana have bagged a fair supply of lambs and are awaiting the Montana run to fill up.

No Heavy Production

That the stage is not set for heavy beef and lamb production is not open to dispute. Of pork there will be profusion, and consumers will go to it. Cost of hog product will determine the course of price events in other branches of the trade, although cheap pork is no longer available. Export demand is an unknown factor. The British government announces a scale of pegged prices for hog product below a parity with Chicago quotations, which means nothing and is subject to overnight change. Under present and prospective conditions neither beef nor lamb can be exported.

However, the war has changed everything, regardless of the commodity. Should Congress repeal the Johnson Act, enabling England and France to buy food on credit, the entire live-stock prospect would undergo a radical change.

LIVE STOCK GOSSIP

R. J. KINZER, SECRETARY OF the American Hereford Association, writing from Argentina, tells of persistent effort by official and cattle interests down that way to throw a smoke screen over foot-and-mouth disease ravages. So conspicuous, however, was evidence of ravages that concealment was impossible. Dead bovine carcasses actually littered pastures. My daughter, who spent several weeks in Germany during the past summer, noted results of the colossal blunder made by that government by permitting imports of Argentine chilled meats. Evidence of this was seen in scanty milk supplies and total absence of butter even in the better

class of hotels. Dairy herds have been decimated, swine herds depleted. This disease has done more to retard economic recovery than any other factor. Had the Nazi government devoted more energy to vital matters and less to war preparation, the condition of the nation would be better. What the new commercial deal Secretary Hull is negotiating with Argentina conceals will be a mystery until the cat is permitted to hop out of the bag. Argentina has apparently abandoned hope of securing abrogation of the sanitary exclusion act and will be content with a broader North American outlet for canned beef, implying reduction of the present duty of 6 cents per pound with, probably, a generous quota at the reduced rate.

Mexican Imports Declining

Stock-cattle imports from Mexico are steadily declining after reaching record volume during the first half of 1939. That it is a "last run of shad" does not admit of doubt. This market was a welcome refuge for American cattle interests in Mexico, the alternative of exportation being confiscation. The run was also welcome to pasture owners and feeders in this country, despite the 2½-cent duty. Mexico would never have boasted a cattle industry of importance but for American energy and capital. Now the bird that laid golden eggs has been strangled. Feeders bought little Mexican calves, greedily scattering them all over the Corn Belt. At an Illinois interior sale recently where the "dollaring off" process was in vogue, weighing facilities being lacking, a farmer bought fifty head of peewee Herefords showing development possibilities at a price per head that suggested around 12 cents per pound. "What are you going to do with them?" facetiously asked the auctioneer. "Raise 'em on the bottle," was the snappy comeback of the purchaser.

Canada Counted Out

Canada may be counted out next year if the war continues, as stockers have worked even higher there than in this market. The fourth-quarter quota will probably not be filled, as Ontario is buying everything wearing a hide at the new scale of prices. The reduced duty was a boon to Canadian feeders, as imports indicate, as the British outlet was practically closed. It was a beef run, practically all heavy steers, that came in competition with domestic long-feds. Influence on prices is conjectural, but they did this market no good. Corn Belt feeders, expectant of a Canadian supply in October, are disappointed over recent developments, as they could have used, at prices current before the rise, every steer available under the last-quarter quota.

Good Season in Sand Hills

Immune to widespread physical adversity, the noted Sand Hills cattle-growing section of northwestern Nebraska has passed through a favorable grazing season. Grass was plentiful, the hog crop



"MAW'S SURE TICKLED ABOUT THIS NEW STYLE" 16

abundant. This was the spot Teddy Roosevelt proposed to convert into a farming area, going to the length of putting cattlemen in jail for attempting to control the range. The sequence was favorable, as enlarged homesteads under the Kincaid Act enabled cattlemen to secure title, thus saving a cow country from the fate encountered by other parts of the Northwest, useless for any other purpose than running live stock. Washington ignorance, plus human cupidity, was for half a century the bane of western live stock.

No More Polish Pork

Polish pork imports ceased abruptly with the war. Poland reduced domestic meat consumption to swap hog product for munitions as the return flow of actual cash was limited. American packers were worried about the constant flow of canned hams to this country for several years, as the 3¼-cent duty was not a serious handicap when poundage had been reduced by cooking, shanking, and butting. The last run was generous, exceeding 1,000,000 pounds weekly. During the week ending August 30 imports from Poland reached 1,122,805 pounds. Average weekly imports from Poland over a lengthy period were equivalent to the weight of 25,000 dressed domestic hogs. The war has also terminated pork importation from other European countries, including Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Holland, and Italy.

"Dogs" Pay Dividends

New York beef trade this summer has been a distinct disappointment. On the other hand, "hot dog" consumption reached record poundage. Swift, catering on an extensive scale at the fair grounds, "pushed dogs" persistently, incurring a heavy advertising bill. Zipper dogs, hairless dogs, skinless dogs, and dogs with handles got wide publicity. Now comes the flavored dog, a Swift innovation, getting a pineapple juice bath before reaching the vending stage. Beef was costly; "dogs" sold in line with consumer economy. Hot dog contents are still an involved mystery except in the secret sphere of manufacturers. Volume indicates popularity with consumers. A traffic justifying page "ads" in metropolitan papers must be profitable. Packers have squawked all summer long about selling beef minus; "dogs" are dividend payers.

Beef Eating Still Costly

Beef is still handicapped in the final distribution process. Every other comestible gets conspicuous lineage in chain store advertising. Competitive foods are boosted, particularly "duckling"—an ingenious term designed to popularize the commodity. Restaurants feature fish and poultry, usually ignoring beef. When for a brief period during the September flurry in the cattle market the beef-house tacked on a cent or so a pound, retailers added 100 per cent, public eating-houses either deleted it from menus or raised

the charge to a prohibitive figure. The resultant reduction in consumption volume was serious, as the subsequent break in cattle prices demonstrated. If there is a ceiling to meat prices, beef struck it with a resounding bump.

Railroads were not tardy in boosting dining car beef charges. The Pennsylvania did not discriminate, taxing patrons \$1.25 and \$1.50 per dinner, but others pushed beef off the edge of the card. On the Ak-Sar-Ben Denver Burlington train, a cut of roast beef was boosted to \$1.50; other entrees cost 85 cents to \$1.15. This is not a criticism of the excellent dining car service of that and other roads, but a stentorian protest against beef discrimination. The other day the Burlington circularized at the stockyards, with logical reasons, dope on why feeders could ship by rail profitably. The department responsible for that circular should say something to the dining car man.

Betting on a Drought

A gigantic bet has been made that the Corn Belt will be involved in a 1940 drought. Premonition is detected in current aridity west of the Missouri River, not to speak of the fall dry-up elsewhere. The AAA is wagering, by expensive carrying of 1937 and 1938 corn, that its property will be worth more money; individual holdings aggregating an unprecedented quantity of old grain are substantially larger and the new crop is for sale only in limited quantities. Processors whose supply has been stunted by the corn holding program inaugurated by the AAA are getting access to more, although the country is merely cutting loose limited quantities to meet pressing obligations. A 1940 drought will save the day; another heavy crop will develop cracks in the program.

Vegetarians Busy

Advancing meat cost elicited an outburst of publicity from vegetarian sources. Meatless meal architects sat up nights concocting new formulas to which newspapers and magazines gave abundant space. The domestic economy gals fairly outdid previous efforts, charting bizarre routes to cheap living. As usual, the so-called "worse cuts" had an inning, although costing more than the better grades, when merit is reckoned with. Publishers, always on a keen scent for meat advertising, bite the hand that feeds them by deprecating consumption of animal foods. Vendors have a powerful weapon: turning down the advertising solicitor when he comes around. But they continue to smear their money over acres of multicolored publicity. Poultry, fish, and dairy product advertisers get a run for their money.

Good Grasses

Recrudescence of crested wheatgrass literature indicates that farm paper editors are slow to catch on. Even the *Country Gentleman* worked up ecstasy, although the theme is hackneyed. Crest-

HAVE YOUR SADDLE MADE TO ORDER *Save 10 to 20*

Perfect fit, guaranteed satisfaction, economy. Harness, Hats, Chaps, Boots, Bridles, etc. Makers of America's best quality Saddles.

FRED MUELLER SADDLE & HARNESS CO.
400 MUELLER BLDG. DENVER, COLO.
STICK TO THE "Fred Mueller" SADDLE

PINE-TREL 1065 DEHYDRATED PINE TAR OIL

BLOW-FLY REPELLENT; ANIMAL WOUND DRESSING. Dehorning, Docking, Castrating, Wire Cuts, Wool Maggots, Grub in Head, Ear Salve, Snotty Nose. Soothing, Acid Free, Non-poisonous.

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SEE YOUR DEALER OR WRITE
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WRITE for latest illustrated catalog of money-saving values in high-grade show equipment and stock breeders' supplies, direct to user.

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Save Money With the New—**SAMSON AIR-FLOW WINDMILL**

Easier Running and Greater Pumping Power

Makes Possible a Running Water System—Operating on FREE Wind Power

Now you can have convenience and profit from running water—where and when you want it—without pumping cost. Plenty of water to produce more meat, milk, eggs, fruit and vegetables—with FREE wind power—even in 5 mile breezes.

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Tells how to plan and install a SAMSON Air Flow WINDMILL powered water system. Gives plans, figures and complete instructions. Benefit from this sensational development in windmill efficiency. Get the facts before you buy any windmill or water system. Just send post card to—

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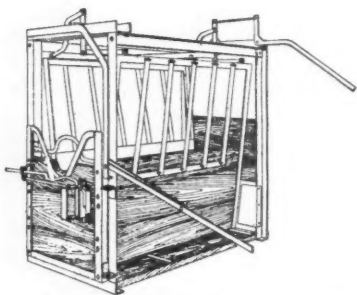
UNITED STATES DENTAL COMPANY
Dept. C-120 1555 Milwaukee Avenue Chicago, Ill.

ed wheatgrass saved the Sand Hills, Nebraska, cattle industry from ruin more than a decade back and is now acquiring popularity all over the semi-arid region. Probably too much has been claimed, but by furnishing successful spring and fall feed it gives the cow a milk flow when the calf needs nutrition and plumping prior to going into winter quarters. What crested wheatgrass did for the Sand Hills was prevention of "blowout" formation. The writer put that story into the old *Breeders' Gazette* many years ago.

Lespedeza is another pasture product attracting attention although known for many years, promising to develop a live-stock industry in the cotton and tobacco belts, even as far south as the sugar section of the Mississippi Delta. Kentucky and Tennessee no longer rely on blue grass, plowing it up to substitute the Korean exotic. In the Middle South they are carrying a cow with its calf through the summer on one acre of otherwise unproductive broken land, subject to erosion. Lack of summer pasture has been the bane of southern live-stock production since Columbus discovered America. This plant is putting the industry on four feet, not only furnishing succulent grazing but hay in abundance.

Edison Storage Batteries for light and power systems. Non-Acid. Odorless. No sulphation or corrosion. Eliminates all the chronic ailments of lead batteries. Built as rugged as a battleship and as fine as a watch. Cannot be injured by over-charging or short-circuiting. Many national institutions and government departments are large users of the Edison batteries. Real bargains in complete lighting systems. Send for free illustrated literature. SEE JAY BATTERY COMPANY, 321 Yonkers Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.

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A complete, modern chute for branding, vaccinating, dehorning, horn-branding, horn-weighting, blood-testing.

World's Best Cattle Machine
Portable Convenient

With sling and roller attachments. The perfect stocks for foot trimming, veterinary work, etc.

The Turner Dehorning Chute
Eagle Nest, New Mexico

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK YARDS

	1939	August 1938	First Eight Months 1939	1938
RECEIPTS—				
Cattle*	1,199,622	1,345,946	8,453,672	8,790,466
Calves	564,122	599,630	4,132,105	4,160,503
Hogs	2,006,954	1,797,019	17,340,144	15,487,453
Sheep	2,391,559	2,663,680	15,147,284	16,309,647
TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—				
Cattle*	548,215	576,631	3,340,185	3,447,626
Calves	246,357	244,593	1,581,763	1,461,379
Hogs	550,180	464,541	4,583,175	4,472,411
Sheep	1,419,442	1,494,902	7,220,302	7,456,927
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle*	300,764	286,204	1,547,775	1,474,336
Calves	74,490	48,387	455,029	294,286
Hogs	36,117	35,278	330,617	292,374
Sheep	504,342	437,512	1,722,046	1,319,954
SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—				
Cattle*	823,000	848,000	6,062,000	6,360,000
Calves	414,000	457,000	3,523,000	3,694,000
Hogs	2,791,000	2,467,000	25,263,000	21,944,000
Sheep	1,457,000	1,603,000	11,163,000	11,927,000

* Exclusive of Calves. † Includes stockers and feeders

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK PRICES

	Sep. 15, 1939	Aug. 15, 1939	Sep. 15, 1938
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (1,100-1,500 lbs.)	\$10.50-11.00	\$8.75-10.00	\$11.25-12.75
Slaughter Steers—Good	9.50-10.50	8.00- 9.00	9.25-11.75
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (900-1,100 lbs.)	10.50-11.25	9.25-10.00	11.00-12.25
Slaughter Steers—Good	9.50-10.50	8.50- 9.25	9.25-11.25
Slaughter Steers—Med. (750-1,300 lbs.)	8.00- 9.50	7.00- 8.50	7.00- 9.25
Fed Young Steers—Gd.-Ch. (500-900 lbs.)	10.50-11.25	8.75-10.25	9.00-11.75
Heifers—Good-Choice	9.50-11.25	8.75-10.00	8.50-11.25
Cows—Good	6.75- 7.50	6.25- 7.00	6.75- 7.25
Vealers—Good-Choice	10.50-11.50	9.50-10.50	9.50-12.00
Calves—Good-Choice	8.00- 9.00	7.50- 8.50	6.75- 8.50
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Good-Choice	8.75-10.25	8.00- 9.25	7.25- 9.75
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med.	7.00- 8.75	6.50- 8.00	5.75- 7.50
Hogs—Medium Weights (200-240 lbs.)	7.75- 8.15	5.85- 6.15	9.10-9.35*
Spring Lambs—Good-Choice	9.15- 9.60	8.75- 9.00	7.50- 8.00
Yearling Wethers—Good-Choice (shorn)	7.35- 8.35	6.50- 7.75	5.75- 6.75
Ewes—Good-Choice (shorn)	3.00- 3.75	2.75- 3.75	3.25- 3.75

* 200-250 lbs.

WHOLESALE MEAT PRICES

	Sep. 15, 1939	Aug. 15, 1939	Sep. 15, 1938
FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—			
Steers—Choice (700 lbs. up)	\$16.50-17.50	\$14.50-15.50	\$16.00-17.50
Steers—Good	15.50-16.50	13.50-14.50	14.00-16.00
Steers—Choice (500-700 lbs.)	16.50-18.00	14.50-16.00	16.00-17.50
Steers—Good	15.50-16.50	13.50-15.00	14.00-15.00
Yearling Steers—Choice	17.50-18.50	15.50-16.50	16.00-17.50
Yearling Steers—Good	16.50-17.50	14.50-15.50	14.00-16.00
Cows—Commercial*	12.50-13.50	11.00-12.00	12.00-12.50
Vealers—Choice	17.50-18.50	15.00-16.50	16.00-17.00
Vealers—Good	16.50-17.50	14.00-15.00	15.00-16.00
FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—			
Spring Lambs—Choice (55 lbs. down)	17.00-18.00	16.50-18.00	15.50-16.50
Spring Lambs—Good	15.00-17.00	15.00-17.00	14.50-15.50
Ewes—Good	8.00- 9.00	6.00- 7.00	7.00- 8.00
FRESH PORK CUTS—			
Loins—8-12 lb. average	18.00-21.00	16.00-18.00	23.00-25.00

* Previous classification, "Good."

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

Commodity in Pounds	Sept. 1, 1939†	Aug. 1, 1939	Sept. 1, 1938	Five-Yr. Av.
Frozen Beef	22,726,000	22,157,000	21,820,000	38,155,000
Cured Beef*	10,421,000	11,299,000	12,647,000	15,979,000
Lamb and Mutton	2,390,000	1,893,000	1,861,000	1,952,000
Frozen Pork	110,768,000	155,129,000	82,536,000	96,596,000
Dry Salt Pork*	73,934,000	92,778,000	81,097,000	70,219,000
Pickled Pork*	176,924,000	206,859,000	171,144,000	231,280,000
Miscellaneous	66,470,000	69,013,000	60,167,000	64,662,000
Total Meats	463,633,000	559,128,000	431,272,000	518,843,000
Lard	112,145,000	139,816,000	116,620,000	113,193,000
Frozen Poultry	63,789,000	64,918,000	54,941,000	53,024,000
Creamery Butter	173,093,000	165,183,000	201,252,000	145,113,000
Eggs (case equivalent)	3,883,000	4,125,000	3,572,000	3,534,000

* Cured or in process of cure. † Subject to revision.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

WOOLS AND HIDES RISE WITH WAR DECLARATION

BY J. E. P.

WOOL PRICES ARE ADVANCING rapidly. This is an opportune moment to replenish wardrobes, as clothing prices will follow if not precede. The labor group will demand a lion's share, and, resorting to customary practice, manufacturers will turn to counterfeiting standard fabrics, as they did during the last war, substituting straw joints, cotton, hemp, and other base raw material. Following the war declaration, wool jumped 5 cents per pound, and manufacturers, who had kept on a hand-to-mouth basis, suddenly discovered that wool in the warehouse was good property. Coincidentally holders tightened up. A huge volume of business developed on the New York top exchange, asking prices soared, and country buyers went afield armed with search warrants, ransacking barn lofts for bargains. Fine delaine bright fleece wools in the grease sold up to 39 cents; original bag territory, at 66 to 68 cents; and French combing length fine territory, at 86 to 88 cents, these prices being refused. Three-month Texas in original bags sold at 93 to 98 cents, scoured basis.

And that's the situation as this is written.

Producers of men's wear worsteds embraced the opportunity to advance yardage 15 to 25 cents, mills reporting that they were booking orders at the advance, also intimating that further appreciation would be imperative if the upturn in wool and tops continued. Producers who had been operating two to three days weekly stepped up their machinery.

Current quotations at Boston follow:

Fleece Wools—Price advances were quite strong on fleece wools. Numerous lots of graded combing three-eighths and quarter blood bright fleeces were sold early in the week at 39 to 41 cents in the grease, but prices advanced on scattered sales later to 43 to 44 cents for average shrinking wools. Sales of semibright fleeces of similar grades were closed at grease basis prices ranging mostly from 34 to 38 cents, a few prices being outside this range. Combing half blood bright fleeces sold mostly in the range 37 to 39 cents in the grease. Several sales were closed on graded fine delaine bright fleeces at grease basis price ranging from 37 to 39 cents, or 93 to 98 cents scoured basis.

Territory wools—Further strong price advances were realized on sizable quantities of territory wools. Prices ranged mostly 85 to 92 cents, scoured basis, on graded French combing length fine territory wools. Graded half blood territory wools in lots containing staple and French combing lengths larger brought 84 to 86 cents, scoured basis. Combing three-eighths blood territory wools moved at prices ranging 78 to 85 cents, scoured basis, while prices of combing quarter blood ranged mostly 73 to 78 cents,

scoured basis. Original bag lines of fine territory wools moved during the week at prices ranging mostly 83 to 88 cents, scoured basis, for average to short French combing length.

Texas wools—Fairly large quantities of twelve-month Texas wools were sold at strong to advanced prices. Average twelve-month Texas wools in original bags brought prices ranging from 84 to 90 cents, scoured basis. Choice lines were sold at 90 to 92 cents, scoured basis. Prices ranged from 75 to 80 cents, scoured basis, for greasy eight-month Texas wools, while 85 cents was realized on scoured lines. Late asking prices on Texas wools in some houses were sharply above these selling prices.

Weavers who stayed out of the market all summer have come to life, indicating a broad trade in fall and winter heavy fabrics. This may not profit growers, as the bulk of the 1939 clip had passed out of their hands previously. Dealers' holdings are well below a seasonal average. Total holdings, according to the New York wool top exchange, including wool in growers' hands, are approximately 12 per cent below the average of the past ten years. England is expected to take control of South African and Australian wools. Sydney sales late in August were postponed, owing to the international situation.

A wool market commentator notes that:

"The New York wool top exchange has compiled a new estimate of the carryover in the Southern Hemisphere, exclusive of South America, and the shortage as compared with last year is now 97,000,000 pounds against 86,000,000 pounds estimated a short time earlier. However, the effect of the shortage in the producing regions is largely offset by unusually large supplies in the European consuming regions. These have probably been deliberately gathered for the purpose of accumulating war stocks.

"Recently there has been considerable discussion of what effect a reciprocal trade treaty with Argentina might have on the wool market. Informed opinion in the trade seems to be that the effect will be small, because a large part of the wool that is imported from Argentina already comes in duty-free, being coarse and used for carpets, or comes in at a very low duty if used for wearing apparel."

Hides Advance Sharply

Hide situation is similar to that of wool. Following war declaration, prices of all hides and skins advanced sharply. Tanners, previously indifferent, hopped into the market with both feet, putting packer hides, steers and cows, on a 14- to 15-cent basis, packer cows selling at 14½ cents. Demand was insistent, small packer and country hides showing equal appreciation. At Chicago 200,000 pieces sold during the second week in September. South American hides are up similarly.

100 Registered Herefords At Auction on the Ranch

Wood Lake, Neb. Oct. 13, 1939

50 Bulls - - - 50 Heifers

We grow our Herefords on the range and sell them to ranchers. Thirty of the bulls turning twelve months will be weighing well over 900 pounds on sale day—not fat. They have bone and scale with quality. Twenty spring bull calves will be weighing between 500 and 600 pounds. The fifty heifers are a choice lot—also grown on the range. Twenty-five will have calves at foot, or are bred. Remainder open yearlings.

We use Hazlett bred bulls on cows of Bocaldo 6th, Onward Domino, Painter's Domino, Beau Aster, Prince Domino Mischief, Bright Stanway, Advance Mischief, and other popular blood-lines.

Judging contest at 10 o'clock, barbecue lunch at 11, sale begins at 12 noon m. s. t. Col. Arthur Thompson, Auctioneer; R. J. Kinzer, American Hereford Association. Illustrated catalog on request.

BY THE WAY RANCH

WOOD LAKE, NEB.

Sam R. McKelvie, Owner

So far the public has shown no disposition to stock up, although this is inevitable. Retailers' holdings are moderate, especially of the cheaper grades of shoes. Labor must be reckoned with, as shoemakers' help is already talking higher wages. To hold down cost to consumers, shoe quality will deteriorate.

During July and August a lag in retail sales kept distributors from filing repeat orders. However, an early start was made by factories in anticipation of increased minimum wage scales, effective in October under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Leather stocks in tanners' hands are moderate. Packers hold the bulk of raw hide stocks and will not throw their property away on an advancing cattle market.

Hides are now substantially above the level of a year ago, while shoe prices show little change.

A Picture of Your Farm

—Your herd
—or prize bull

reproduced on your letterhead or a neat folder may be just what you need to give "that something" which you cannot conveniently put into a letter. If it's in the line of printing or publicity we can assist you.

Frank J. Wolf *Publications*
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JUNIORS

HARRY AND JIM ACCEPT A CHALLENGE

"THE BOYS IN THIS FAMILY GET away with murder," protested Mary to her mother as they were washing the dishes. "When you clean, I have to dust. I always have to wash the supper dishes. What do the boys do? Nothing. They don't make their beds. They don't even air them. It isn't fair."

Harry, who is Mary's brother, and Jim, who is Harry's pal, were taking it easy, propped against the wall just outside the kitchen window. They overheard Mary's protest.

"Maybe there's something to what Sis says, Jim. But let's skip it." Harry suggested a spot a bit farther from the window. He continued:

"I wonder if that rustler they caught the other day was in a gang. You heard any more about it? Rustlers used to gang up. I bet this one was in a gang and just got too far away from the others."

"I don't know," answered Jim. "Why?"

"Well, I've been thinking, Jim. I told you about that convention dad took me to. Sis went, too, so she hasn't any kick coming. I've been thinking about the gang and conventions."

Jim wanted to know what the convention had to do with the gang that Harry was talking about. Harry continued:

"I went into that big room where they make speeches. Swell talks, I guess, but they didn't mean much to me. I went out."

Harry went on:

"Remember, Jim, that little calf we pulled out of the mud-hole a while back? Dad gave him to me, and now I've got four, about as many as you have. I'd like to have more. I'd like to make a little money. You get to thinking about it, that's what dad wants, too, except he has to pay taxes and a lot of things. But we have to buy some feed, and I bought a rifle. I could run this ranch if they'd let me."

Jim remembered the calf, but he thought Harry was wandering from his subject. Harry had a theory about that gang. Jim wanted to know what it was.

"You didn't see any rustlers at the convention, did you?" Jim said.

"No, that isn't it, but they talked about rustling gangs. But that isn't it at all. The rustlers getting together only gave me an idea. There were quite a few fellows at the meeting my size, and I could see they felt the way I did. They didn't say much. They just went around being polite and didn't look like they belonged there exactly. Reminded me of a little dogged calf."

Evasive talk, thought Jim. He was now only half listening to what Harry was saying.

"Dad says conventions do a lot of

good," continued Harry. "They talk about stuff I can't figure out. But my dad's no sap, so I figure if he says there's something in it there must be, and it isn't only because they give Sis a chance to show off her duds."

Harry sat up.

"Here's what I've been thinking. When we get to go to conventions we spend most of the time trying to find something to do. Why couldn't we, you and all the rest of the fellows about our size, have meetings, officers, and speeches and elections, too. Dad tells me there's a lot to this ranching business now, and a cowman has to get in on a lot more than just riding the range."

Jim knitted his brows.

"I've already sprung the idea on dad," said Harry. "He says to go to it. Many things we could put into a convention, he says. We could hold it right along with his big convention. He said we could get some of those boys who show cattle to tell us about some of the fine points of judging they learned. Every cowman ought to learn all he can about quality in stock. And then he tells me to ask them to put me on the program some time for a speech on how I've been paying part of my way in school."

"You make a speech?" Jim jeered.

"Listen, Jim, that's not so funny. I bet I could make a peach of a speech to the bunch. You might make a fair one yourself. You're a pretty good roper. You could try to tell 'em how to rope a calf."

"Well, I'm not bragging about any speech," said Jim. "But you get some fellows together. I'll make a speech. If it's a dare, I'll take it."

"That's the way I've been figuring, Jim. The whole thing is a sort of a challenge to see if there aren't a lot of things we could do with a convention. Let's talk to the fellows we see. We'll let the girls come in and listen, which ought to square us on any dishwashing we pass up. What do you say?"

Harry is right. Here is a challenge to you young fellows. Boys up in Nebraska have met it. They have now set up the Nebraska Junior Stock Growers' Association. Boys down in Arizona have met the challenge. They have taken over one whole session of the Yavapai Cattle Growers' Association convention. Down in McCurtain County in Oklahoma the fellows are fixing up a junior association. Think it over, you boys in other states.

JUNIOR NEBRASKANS ADOPT ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

LAST SPRING, YOUNG STOCKMEN in Nebraska between the ages fifteen and thirty formed an association of their own, calling it the Nebraska Junior Stock Growers' Association. Be-

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

ginning with twelve young men as charter members, the group has already grown, and this fall, says the association's president, Edward Arnold, "I think we will be able to give you a much better report."

Young men in other states will be interested in the junior association's by-laws. Here they are:

Name of the organization shall be the Nebraska Junior Stock Growers' Association.

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote welfare of live-stock industry and prepare our members for membership in the senior association.

Active members must be materially interested in the live-stock industry, and be between the ages of fifteen and thirty and must have paid their annual dues.

Anyone interested in the Nebraska Junior Stock Growers' Association may belong to the association as associate member upon payment of annual dues.

Annual dues shall be 50 cents a member, to be paid at or before the annual meeting. Meeting to be called by the president during the annual meeting of the senior association.

Officers shall be elected at each annual meeting by the active members. Officers shall not succeed themselves more than once.

There shall be two directors from each of the four districts which are designated in the senior organization. One from each district shall be elected for a term of two years, and one shall be elected for one year, and one director for a term of two years thereafter.

A caucus shall consist of eleven active members.

JUNIOR LETTERS

LIKES SCHOOL, LIKES RANCH TOO

Through a junior stockman's department in the PRODUCER we youngsters will get a better opportunity to see what others are doing and about the live-stock problems in the other states. Of course, the big issues are always discussed in the many live-stock magazines, but I am not very familiar with much of it and would enjoy hearing from boys near my age through your columns and of the way they handle cattle in their own state.

I am leaving the ranch tomorrow to go back to school at the New Mexico Military Institute. I like my school but sure hate to leave the ranch and my pet saddle horses. I have some thoroughbreds and quarter horses that are learning the cow business so well that I am afraid dad will put someone else on them in my absence who will teach them different to my way, which maybe isn't the best way but it suits me and the horses don't seem to mind it.

I have a small herd of my own and while we have not had very much rain this summer I believe they will get fat. So I am particularly anxious for fall to roll by in order to learn how heavy my steer calves are going to be and how

much money they will bring. Some ranchers have contracted their calves at 7½ cents per pound for heifers and 8 cents for steers. No trading is being done yet (September 1) in stocker cows mainly because it has not rained in California. The buyers from that state usually handle the most old cows. Many farmers up and down the Rio Grande Valley feed cattle and sheep, but they have not bought many cattle yet that I have heard about. Maybe it's because they have not harvested their crops yet.

Our country is very mild in the winter and the fall rains do a lot of good. In fact, if we get fall rains the variety of grass is such that life stays in it all winter and we never have to feed cottonseed cake or any hay. We seldom have snow. Snow falls in the mountains, which are about forty miles away. All we can hope for is that it may snow at Christmas time, which reminds me I'll be glad when that time comes and I can come back to the ranch and my cow-horse.

I like to fish, hunt, and ride. These are my hobbies if I have any.

SONNY BROWNFIELD.

Florida, N. M.

FINE CALVING BARN

I think a description of the activities of different people's farm and ranch groups organizations would be of interest in your junior department. In Nebraska we have the Nebraska Junior Stock Growers' Association. Of interest also, I think, would be some of our personal experiences. Last year I stayed at home, instead of going to college, to get some practical knowledge along with the "book knowledge."

During that time I drove around over the country a lot with my father, visiting other Sand Hills ranchers to follow up the cattle we sold and get ideas from their operations. Of particular interest to me was a calving barn at the I. E. Huffman ranch south of Hyannis. This barn was 90 feet long and 54 feet wide, with 40 pens 9 feet square. Each pen could accommodate 2 cows, or 80 in all. Two 9-foot runways ran the entire length of the barn for ease in penning the cows and, in case of a long storm, a hayrack could be taken through and the cows fed hay right in their pens. The stalls were made of woven wire, so the cows could see each other and be quieter, and for economy of construction. The most interesting feature, though, was the roof. The walls and the north slope of the gable were made of tin, but the south slope of the gable was covered with a piece of canvas about 90 feet by 40 feet in size. This canvas was mounted on a roller the full length of the barn so it can be rolled down during the day if the weather is good and rolled up at night and on stormy days. This is not only cheaper, but it allows sunlight, nature's best germicide, to enter each stall every day and kill

any germs that may be present. Then all summer the barn is left open so there should be no danger of abortion or any other disease being carried over from year to year. This is a very practical, cheap barn and is one of the many ideas that one might never learn about unless he visits his fellow ranchers.

JUNIOR MESSERSMITH.

Alliance, Neb.

JUNIOR SECRETARY WRITES

The Nebraska Junior Stock Growers' Association plans to prepare its members for membership in the senior organization and to promote the welfare of the live-stock industry. To this end we plan to hold an annual meeting in conjunction with the meeting of the senior organization each year in June. Also we will have a banquet and entertainment.

By letters from young stockmen to the PRODUCER on any interesting subject or



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The Breed with a Record
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THE AMERICAN ABERDEEN-ANGUS BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

Union Stock Yards Chicago, Illinois

news happening in their neighborhood much of interest can be included in a junior department.

I think that a national junior organization at the proper time can be made interesting and beneficial to young stockmen in the entire live-stock producing area of the nation. A rancher must attend to the business end of his business if he is to attain prominence in his line of endeavor, and a junior organization in which we may in an interesting way prepare ourselves for this responsibility is the best practice in that type of work I can think of. Our junior organization has received letters from states as far away as Texas and New Mexico in which the writers have indicated interest and have asked for suggestions and advice in formation of local groups similar to the one of which I am an officer.

ROBERT MESSERSMITH.

Alliance, Neb.

OUR YOUNGEST

I am very proud to write a letter to the PRODUCER. I am eight years old and the youngest member of the association. I like to go to the conventions, and wish more boys would go, so I can have more friends. I work cattle and help with the branding. Now I ride pick-up, while the men break horses. They are breaking a colt for me. He is black, and his

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For best of service West, bill to feed at North Salt Lake.

SALT LAKE UNION STOCK YARDS

North Salt Lake



"My cow-pony Baldy."

name is Midnight. The first calf I roped was given to me. I sold it and bought a saddle with the money. I am looking forward to the next convention and stock show in Denver.

HUGH LENOX HODGE.

XSX Ranch, Silver City, N. M.

APPRECIATES CHANCE AT SCHOOL

I think that my getting to go to an agriculture school is a very good subject to write about.

I graduated from the eighth grade and heard of an agriculture school in Curtis, Nebraska; but my parents thought that I was too young to send away from home so far, so I went to high school in Alliance for two years. Then my break came when a teacher came from that school and talked to my parents and they decided I could go.

I received better grades right from the start than I ever did in my two years in the other school because it was something I was interested in and therefore it came easy. If my two years did no other good than to give me the ability to meet strange people, I think I got my money's worth out of it. I learned about motors, woodwork, forge, and many other subjects that I would probably have learned by hard experience, but this way I received my credits for it. I also took the subjects you would receive in high school, so if I did want to do something else I would have them. I had a chance to work for part of my board and room, which helped a lot. I have been paid many times in the last year and a half from the knowledge I received at that school.

I think that the young fellow who thinks he is going to take up ranching as a profession should go to a school like this and be away from home, so if a time comes when he has to be away from home it will not be so hard for him in later life.

ORVAL E. JOHNSTON.

Antioch, Neb.

NOT SO HARD TO GET STARTED

I feel that the new department will be just what is needed to pep up interest among us younger stockmen in the producing of finer cattle through the letters from younger people.

The ambition of most of us, I believe, is to have a herd of our own. Although

the big problem is how to get started it really isn't so hard. Ask dad and talk it over. He will be willing, I am sure, to give you a heifer calf or a young cow even. If this is taken care of early enough, we can pay our way, with the stock we sell, through college. Isn't that something to be proud of? I know of some boys who are doing this.

We are living in a great cattle and live-stock nation. It's up to us alone to see that the United States is made the one nation in quality and type of live stock.

LESTER JESSE.

Alliance, Neb.

GREAT STEPPING-STONE

I feel that a junior stockmen's department is a great stepping-stone in the preparation for activity in senior stockmen's organizations. I am an officer in the recently formed Nebraska Junior Stock Growers' Association, and we feel that this organization will be of great value in promoting interest in the live-stock industry, meeting and solving problems of their own, and creating a friendly association among the young stockmen of the country.

ELVIN ADAMSON.

Nenzel, Neb.

PERFECTION-OF-TYPE PROGRAM

In a few years the junior stockmen of today will be the stockmen, so I think they have a right to begin expressing opinion and carrying the load.

While I think the present system of relief to the unemployed is an evil which should be radically changed, I have an idea which may sound like relief or charity, but one which I think is for the betterment of the live-stock industry of America.

There are many breeding herds in the nation which have very nearly reached perfection of type. Prices on individuals from these herds are prohibitive, and therefore the industry is not progressing as it could. To this the breeders have a perfect right to say that they can ask what they want for their stock. But is there not some way in which these individual animals, preferably sires, can be obtained by everyone who needs them.

A suggestion would be that since there are already corn, cotton, and wheat programs and so forth there could be a program which would allot enough money to buy a top-ranking herd sire for every place there was one needed. This would certainly speed up the perfection of type in live-stock breeds.

ERNEST RIGHETTI.

San Luis Obispo, Cal.

SEES NATIONAL JUNIOR GROUP

Being a charter member of the Nebraska Junior Stock Growers' Association, and sensing the possibilities of a similar national organization, I am deeply interested in your junior stockmen's department.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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It seems there is no phase of ranch life so important as being able to distinguish a superior animal and knowing why it is superior. Constant contact with this inadequacy, from experience in actual sale of cattle and in both judging and showing in school work, forces its prominence into light.

I would like to see pointers in live-stock judging and showmanship set forth in illustrated form in your junior department. I suggest that the national junior organization sponsor a stock showing and judging contest. This could be held separately or jointly with some large central show. Some prominent live-stock judge could be secured to set forth the desirable points of each animal and their relative importance with each other as pertaining to better live-stock production. The junior department should be of educational value as above and will have a real worth if an active interest is taken by my fellow ranch youth.

What do you think of the idea? Let the department hear from you, to pass your ideas on for consideration by all.

KENNETH MESSERSMITH.

Alliance, Neb.

JUNIOR NOTES

OKLAHOMA BOYS ORGANIZE

Many boys in McCurtain County, Oklahoma, are now members of a duly established live-stock association. Seventy-five boys, called by President J. E. Fleming of the McCurtain County Live Stock Association to meet at Broken Bow, expressed hearty approval of a junior department in the county association. The boys' ages range from fifteen to twenty-one. Annual dues are 75 cents. The junior department will work toward such things as the raising of better live stock, co-operation and friendship among members, and better understanding of live-stock subjects. Officers of the junior organization are: J. W. Harwell, of Broken Bow, president; John M. Fleming, of Smithville, vice-president; and Carlyn Denson, of Garven, secretary-treasurer. The executive committee consists of four.

GRAY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

President of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, W. M. Jeffers, has announced that 4-H clubs and other similar scholarships which are made annually by the Union Pacific to high school boys and girls in the eleven states served by the railroad will henceforth be known as "The Carl Raymond Gray Scholarships," in honor of the late president of the road. The board of directors of the railroad "believes it is fitting that future scholarship awards be named for Mr. Gray in recognition and commemoration of his initiation of the plan and of his high service to agriculture and agricultural education."

FOREIGN

FROM FOREIGN FIELDS

THE BRITISH FOOD DEFENSE department, to be known in the future as the Food Ministry, is to have sole authority over the importation of all essential foodstuffs into the United Kingdom, according to a cable to the office of the Foreign Agricultural Relations from the American embassy in London. It is understood that the British desire to purchase at once the better part of a year's supply of all essential food imports while prices overseas are still reasonable, delivery to be deferred until the products are needed. Food-stuff price control is likely to be the second major activity of the new Food Ministry. . . . Suspension by Great Britain on September 5 of quota restrictions on imports of bacon and hams should mean larger United States pork and lard shipments to that country, the Department of Agriculture believes. This, however, does not mean unlimited entry, as Great Britain has plans for complete control of foreign trade. Under agreement, the United States is guaranteed 0.85 per cent of total permitted bacon imports (about 6,000,000 pounds on the basis of 1938 imports) and 91.15 per cent, but not less than 56,000,000 pounds, of the imports of ham.

HELP FOR CATTLE RAISERS

A bill being considered by legislators in Colombia would authorize the credit bank for cattle raising to bring into the country up to 1,000,000 head of cows not over two and one-half years old for breeding purposes, according to "Food-stuffs Round the World." The measure would forbid consumption as beef of such imported stock for four years. Proponents of the measure said that a high price for local breed cows prevails owing to insufficient supply and this is responsible for high cost of beef. . . . A live-stock improvement scheme is being organized by the Rhodesian government, by which grants and loans up to \$250, or in special cases \$500, are being made toward the purchase of pedigreed bulls. Assistance is also being provided for the purchase of boars and rams.

BUTCHER SHOPS LICENSED

New butcher shops in Cuba may not be located nearer than 300 meters from an existing butcher shop, under recent decree. The decree also provides that new shops must sell at least 200 kilos of meat (assumedly daily), otherwise face cancellation of license.

MEAT PRODUCTION IN RUSSIA

Most of the meat produced in the Soviet Union is beef. For many years

mutton was second in importance, but has now been superseded by pork, according to the American consul at Moscow. Meat production in 1938 was estimated at 845,000 metric tons and sausage production at 330,000 metric tons. Pork constituted 28 per cent of the meat produced in 1937 and in 1938 probably was at least 29 per cent, representing about 245,000 metric tons.

TRUTH IN FOOTWEAR

The Argentine government has issued a decree requiring imported and domestic footwear to show principal component materials used therein.

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Get the facts on the tremendous buying power by meat packers on the Los Angeles market, where there is a daily demand for approximately 3,000 cattle and calves, 3,000 hogs, and 3,500 sheep and lambs. For additional facts on the Los Angeles market, write to . . .

LOS ANGELES Union Stock Yards

Los Angeles, California

ROUND THE RANGE

WESTERN LIVE STOCK AND RANGE REPORT

TAKEN AS A WHOLE, WESTERN ranges and pastures rated a condition on September 15 unchanged from September 1 and August 1. But the Continental Divide split this condition sharply in two: on the east of it was deterioration; to the west, improvement. The Denver regional office of the Agricultural Marketing Service listed, on

September 15, Utah, western Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and parts of Arizona as benefiting from rains, but the section east of the Divide, except local areas in southern Texas, Montana, Wyoming, and New Mexico suffered from heat and dryness.

Cattle have held up well. Forced movement has been small, a few animals moved from Colorado; Wyoming increased its marketings; after delayed marketing, heavy movement from the

Osage and Flint Hills pastures of Oklahoma and Kansas has taken place. Dry feed in northern sections has forced continued early movement of sheep and lambs.

Summary by states as of September 15 follows:

Arizona.—Drought relieved in south and parts of central and northern areas; dry weather continued in northeast; cattle held up well, markedly improving in south.

California.—Ranges and pastures below normal; heavy rains in southeast improved feed outlook; other sections little changed where only scattered showers; barley and concentrates in large supply; stock shows less weight and condition than year ago.

Colorado.—Continued dry in east; rains materially helped in western half; stock condition below last year; feed supplies low.

Idaho.—September rains helped ranges and lower and southern areas; stock condition fair to good.

Kansas.—Pastures and late feed crops suffered from dry, hot weather; Flint Hills have good feed but drying; cattle moving rapidly after delayed marketing; rain needed for wheat and pastures.

Montana.—August drought caused sharp range condition drop, but later fairly general rains helped; hay and grains for winter ample.

Nebraska.—Continued dry hot weather further reduced late feed crops; rain badly needed; Sand Hills generally fairly good.

Nevada.—Ranges in fair condition; rains, heavy in south and light in east, helped range feed; live stock in fairly good condition.

New Mexico.—Weather hot; little rain except in central areas; rain needed for ranges and late feed crops; stock in good condition.

North Dakota.—Good supply feed on western ranges and pastures; continued dry weather except for helpful showers in north and east; stock lost weight during August; marketings normal.

Oklahoma.—Dry, hot weather depleted soil moisture and damaged late feed crops; pastures need rain; cattle fair to good but shrinking.

Oregon.—Range and live-stock condition down; very dry areas helped by scattered rains over most of state; hay and feed supplies ample.

South Dakota.—Range improved in August but reported hot and dry; showers in east; some water shortage in west.

Texas.—Late crops and range feed dried under lack of rain and hot weather except in extreme south and coastal plain; cattle and sheep feeding operations expected larger than last year.

Utah.—Generally good rains helped eastern, central, and southern areas; live-stock condition fairly good.

Washington.—Live stock and ranges reported on September 1 as poorest of record for state; scattered showers later helped pasture and ranges.

Wyoming.—Scattered rains helped northern, central, and southern areas but came rather late; live stock held up well.

How About the Speculator?

MOVING cattle from the range to the Corn Belt feedlot is no longer the sole responsibility of speculators. Co-operative agencies now perform this service on a cost basis. Information as to market outlets and prices is always available through the farmer's own marketing organization. Write

National Live Stock Marketing Ass'n

160 North La Salle Street

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RENEWED FAITH IN A GREAT CATTLE INDUSTRY

BY F. E. MOLLIN

THE WRITER HAD THE PLEASURE of spending a week with the ranchmen of northern New Mexico the latter part of August.

Physical conditions were spotted, ranging from excellent on the Bell Ranch to far below par in the territory around Raton.

Calves were being contracted at strong prices, up to 10 cents per pound, for fall delivery. Quality of the cattle in that region is responsible for a healthy demand at such prices.

One of the most interesting developments was the keen interest shown in horse raising by almost every rancher visited. Justly proud of the quality of their cattle, they seemed even more interested in displaying their fine horses. In one or two instances "horse talk" monopolized the conversation. No doubt they had some cattle back behind the scenes, but they did not say anything about them, not being able to see over the backs of the fine horses in the corrals.

The writer does not claim to be an expert on the subject of horsemanship, but it would be his guess that the quality and breeding of the horses now being used on many western ranches is 50 to 100 per cent better than the old "bronc" for which the West first was famous. Of special interest were the fine Palominos on the famous Philmont Ranch.

Among the ranches visited were the Bell Ranch, Tequesquite Ranch, The WS (Brownie Wilson), Philmont, CS (Ed Springer), Will Ferguson, Holland Duell, John O'Brien, Frank Hartley, Curtis, and others. A nice visit was had with Ben Clayton at his office in Springer. He is a fine addition to the ranks of western cattlemen.

At Raton, while unable to get out to the ranches, a very pleasant meeting was had with Clarence Stockton, Ed Johnson of the TO Ranch, and Earl Smith.

It is a rare treat, one which comes all too infrequently, to get out into the country and visit with the ranchmen and learn what they think of current events; to see the fine cattle and horses which are being grown; and to get away from the newspapers with their daily shrill warnings of dire events. Riding with the wagon-crew of the Bell Ranch on the Mesa Rica, on the south side of the ranch, to bed at seven o'clock (after what would constitute about two days' work in the city), with the moon and stars shining on you and a soft breeze blowing in your face, it is hard to think that we could be very seriously concerned with the war drums of Europe—although the transcontinental airplane traveling its customary route above you brought an unpleasant reminder that distances are not so great as formerly.

It all served again to renew the writ-

er's faith that the cattle industry is the greatest industry in the United States, and it is eminently worth fighting for in any attacks made upon it.

The West may have changed in many ways, but it still offers a brand of hospitality unmatched anywhere in the good old U.S.A.

PRICES IN WORLD WAR

THE INTERESTING QUESTION, "What happened to live stock and grain prices as a result of the last World War?" is answered in an article in *Western Live Stock Journal*, from which we extract the following:

"Average native steers sold on the Chicago market in 1913 at \$8.25 a cwt. In 1914, the first year of the war, the average price of steers at Chicago advanced to \$8.65; in 1915, the average declined to \$8.40; in 1916, the average advanced to \$9.50, in 1917 to \$11.60, in 1918 to \$14.65 a cwt. Average range steer prices during the same period at Chicago: 1913, \$7.50; 1914, \$7.65; 1915, \$7.75; 1916, \$8.40; 1917, \$10.60; 1918, \$14.50. Top prices on steers advanced from \$10.25 in 1913 to \$20.50 in 1918. But notice that the war had been carried on two years before there was much advance in cattle prices, and the main advance was after the United States entered the conflict.

"Here's the trend of hog prices in Chicago, prices being averaged for the years: 1914, \$8.20; 1915, \$7.00; 1916, \$9.65; 1917, \$15.20; 1918, \$17.50. Prices actually declined during the first year of the war. Average hog price in Chicago in January, 1914, was \$8.35, August (the month war broke out) \$8.75, September \$8.60, December \$7.10. By December, 1915, the average had dropped to \$6.60. But prices advanced steadily in 1916 until the September average in that year was \$10.55.

"Average price of lambs in Chicago in 1913 was \$7.70; in 1914, \$8.00; 1915, \$9.00; 1916, \$10.75; 1917, \$15.60; 1918, \$16.60—highest average on record. An extreme top of \$22.10 was paid for woolled lambs at Chicago in April, 1918—highest price on record.

"Chicago hides averaged \$24.75 a cwt. in 1918—slightly more than twice the present value.

"Cash corn in Chicago ranged from 46½ to 78¼ cents in 1913, top advanced to 86 cents in 1914, \$1.11 in 1916, \$2.36 in 1917, dropped to \$1.85 in 1918. Chicago cash wheat made a high of \$1.15½ in 1913, \$1.33 in 1914, \$1.68 in 1915, \$2.02 in 1916, \$3.45 in 1917, and \$2.42 in 1918. Cash lard was \$11.87½ in 1913, \$11.60 in 1914, \$11.27½ in 1915, \$17.45 in 1916, \$28.20 in 1917, \$27.30 in 1918—and after the war in 1919, \$35.85 a cwt."

BULLETINS IN BRIEF

PRESENT EUROPEAN HOSTILITIES, if continued, will undoubtedly affect horse and mule prices as in 1914-18, believes Wayne Dinsmore, secretary of the Horse and Mule Associa-

tion of America. A statement made by Mr. Dinsmore printed in the *Omaha Daily Journal-Stockman*, indicates that France might need 100,000 head; that there had been heavy purchases of horses in Ireland and in other countries by Germans; that 1,500 mules had been exported from the United States to Turkey this summer; that dealers who furnished horses in the last war believe there is no likelihood of orders before next April or May. "The United States Army," he said, "had, in December, 1938, a total of 24,531 horses and mules. Some purchases for replacement purposes are being made, but no definite plans for an increase of animal units appear to be pending."

FEEDSTUFF PRICES

Cottonseed cake and meal was quoted on September 20 at \$31.50 a ton, f. o. b. Dallas. Hay prices, carlot, on September 14 at Omaha were: Alfalfa—No. 1, \$12 to \$13; standard leafy, \$11 to \$11.50; standard, \$10 to \$10.50; No. 2, \$9.50 to

CARLOT FEEDSTUFFS

When you want a price on a CARLOT of COTTONSEED CAKE OR PELLETS LINSEED MEAL OR PELLETS SOYBEAN MEAL OR PELLETS Delivered your station. Wire, phone or write

ARCH SALES COMPANY STOCKYARDS DENVER, COLO

Soybean Oil Meal Oil Cake Pellets

Why has this protein concentrate won such quick and general acceptance? The answer is—

It Does the Job Better for Less Money

Write us for prices and information

STANDARD SOYBEAN MILLS

Centerville Iowa

\$10; No. 3, \$8.50 to \$9.50; sample, \$6.50 to \$8; upland prairie—No. 1, \$9 to \$10.50; No. 2, \$7.50 to \$8.50; No. 3, \$6 to \$7; sample, \$4.50 to \$6; midland prairie—No. 1, \$8 to \$9; No. 2, \$7 to \$8; mixed—No. 1, \$9 to \$10; No. 2, \$7.50 to \$8.50; No. 3, \$6 to \$7.

RAMS IN NATIONAL AUCTION

The 1,373 rams sold at the National Ram Sale at Salt Lake City recently averaged \$42.84, the National Wool Growers' Association, sponsor of the sale, announced. Top sale was a Suffolk for \$750. Two Hampshires topped the auction at \$250.

PRIZES TOTAL OVER \$100,000

Prizes for the 1939 International Live Stock Exposition and Horse Show, the fortieth annual, will total over \$100,000,

according to the premium list for this year's show which is now available free on request to the exposition's headquarters at the Chicago stock yards. Entries for all live-stock classes, except the carlot competitions for fat and feeder cattle, sheep, and swine, will close on November 1, B. H. Heide, secretary-manager of the exposition, announces. Carlot entries will be accepted up to November 2. The International Live Stock Exposition dates this year will be December 2 to 9.

ARMOUR PRESIDENT RESIGNS

Robert H. Cabell, president of Armour and Company, resigned recently and was succeeded by Executive Vice-President George A. Eastwood. Cabell was requested by the board of directors to remain as a member of the board, and he

agreed to do so. He had been president of Armour and Company since 1934, when he succeeded the late T. G. Lee.

CROP ESTIMATE

Government estimate as of September 1 of indicated production of various crops and production in 1938 are as follows (three ciphers omitted):

	1938	Indicated Sept. 1
Corn (bu.)	2,542,238	2,523,092
Winter Wheat (bu.)	686,637	550,710
Spring Wheat (bu.)	244,164	185,405
Oats (bu.)	1,053,839	929,968
Barley (bu.)	252,139	264,163
Rye (bu.)	55,039	40,834
Hay, tame (tons)	80,299	74,728
Hay, wild (tons)	10,444	8,999
Hay, clover and timothy* (tons)	27,754	24,320
Beans, dry edible (100-lb. bags)	15,268	13,073
Potatoes (bu.)	371,617	364,208
Sugar Beets (tons)	11,614	10,677
Cotton (acreage)	11,943	12,380

*Excludes sweet clover and lespedeza.

"WHERE TO BUY" ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

Twenty-five cents a line, except display space. Normally seven words to a line. Display rates on request. Forms close 15th. Send copy to 515 Cooper Building, Denver, Colorado.

RANCH FOR SALE

14,000 acres Nebraska, wet meadows, sand hill pasture. Additional 2,500 acres lease land. Down payment \$1.50 per acre. Yearly principal payment 15c per acre. Interest 5%. Harry White, Realtor Oskaloosa, Iowa

STEER RANCH

31,000 acres, best in Nebraska. R. T. Manuel, Colorado, Texas.

HARDY Recleaned ALFALFA Seed, \$9.90; Grimm Alfalfa, \$10.90; Sweet Clover, \$3.90. All 60-lb. bushel, track Concordia, Kansas. Return Seed if not satisfied. GEO. BOWMAN, Concordia, Kansas.

GOING NEVADA CATTLE RANCHES

66,000 acres with 16,000 acres irrigated meadows; 3 sets of buildings in fine condition; equipment, including 5,200 head HEREFORD cattle; 80 horses, mules. \$325,000. 12,000 acres; 7,000 acres irrigated meadow; 3 sets excellent buildings; 1,400 DURHAM and HEREFORD cattle; horses; equipment. Complete, \$130,000.

JULIUS LEMLE,

127 Montgomery St., San Francisco, Calif.

RANCHES, large or small, for sale, exchange, or lease, in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana, California, Canada, Central and South America, Africa, and islands of the sea. J. D. FREEMAN, Gunter Building, San Antonio, Texas.

FOR LEASE

13,550-Acre Ranch With Headquarters

Fenced into 3 separate pastures and rented separately if desired; well watered and tributary to Amarillo, Texas.

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Write today for full information on really productive farms in fertile Colorado. Attractive prices, small down payment, and low rates on balance for all size farms. No trades. Also income producing farms in Kansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. Check coupon below for states interested in, and mail to:

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WICHITA, KANSAS

Furnish me with full lists and information on available farms in states which I have checked below.

☐ COLORADO ☐ OKLAHOMA
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NAME.....

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Portable Electric Water Heater

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\$6.50

Boils water three minutes per gallon. No expensive storage tank or pipes. Five to ten times faster than electric range. Operates from light socket either AC or DC 110V. Thousands in daily use. Handy wherever hot water is used. Ideal for dressing poultry, canning fruit, use in sick room and trailers. One provides sufficient water for washing dishes, clothes and for baths for average family. Safest, cheapest, and fastest known method of heating water. Fully guaranteed and will last indefinitely. Sent postpaid for only \$6.50. Money refunded on return of heater within ten days if not fully satisfied.

EMERSION ELECTRIC HEATER CO.

Dept. CP

2045 W. 84th Place Los Angeles, Cal.
Agents wanted Fast seller
Send references

HORSE POWER REDUCED

Sixty per cent reduction in the percentage of farms depending upon horses and mules for power between 1931 and 1937 is reported by agricultural economists of the University of Illinois. Simultaneously there was an increase of 330 per cent in the percentage of farms depending upon general purpose tractors. The use of complicated machinery such as the combine, corn-pickers, and balers has increased rapidly among the farms surveyed and the use of motor cultivation for row crops has become important. The number of hours of use per tractor has risen from 340 annually to 600. Cost of tractor operation has dropped from 87 cents an hour to 46 cents an hour, the report disclosed.

NEED RAIN

All live stock is in very good condition. Early summer rainfall gave the grass a rapid growth. Very dry now and fall rains are much needed.

D. KENNETH NEWCOMER.
Custer County, Mont.

WATER SHORTAGE

It surely has been a dry summer here—no rain. Cattle are in good shape considering the weather. It is going to be bad to go into the winter, as dry as it is. There will be a shortage of water.

B. W. BRIDGES.
Hot Springs County, Wyo.

BEST GRASS AND CROPS

Crops and grass best in years in the Dalhart country, although they are not yet back to normal. There is a shortage of native cattle—only a few small herds of breeding cattle; ranch herds are reduced.

MALCOLM STEWART.
Dallam County, Texas.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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